

# **SALVATION LIGHT**

**H. H. PETERS**



Class BR 121

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# Salvation Light

BY

H. H. PETERS,  
A Railroad Conductor.



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## DEDICATION.

This book is dedicated to the human race. Its object is to show the sinner a better way, and urge believers to live a holy life and be faithful unto death.

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## PREFACE.

In writing this book on Salvation Light I first desire to thank my heavenly Father who has thus honored me by allowing His Holy Spirit to impart to my mind some precious truths and made these writings possible. And I believe God intends to use these messages here and there in drawing some precious souls heavenward. I am only a common railroad man without much education; a layman in the Methodist Episcopal Church, having been granted a local preacher's license, not because I merited it through the regular course under which local preachers receive their license, but for the reason God has seen fit to give me talent along the line of scripture memorizing and quoting. I believe these writings will be appreciated best by ordinary folks who may not have any more book learning than myself, and especially by those in the Kingdom of grace. Nevertheless we believe that men and women, boys and girls in all conditions of life can find something on these pages that will help them to better things if they will only follow the promptings of God's Spirit and are true to their own best interests. I have met with many people who have been a help to me and a blessing to my soul. Again history, both sacred and profane, tells us of an innumerable company of faithful men and women,

boys and girls, who have gone on before. Nevertheless, while they now rest from their labors we have become partakers of good things they established, and we in turn must be true to God and faithful to our trust if we expect to benefit our own generation and be an inspiration to the unborn multitudes to come.

As I look back over my own life I cannot help but speak of some folks who have been a great blessing to me, and that is a godly father and a saintly mother who taught me the way of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. Others who have pushed me out in divine things and who helped me are not a few, but I desire to mention some who seemed to take a special interest in me and they are Rev. R. E. Gilmore, Rev. Dugal McCormack, Rev. Wm. Posey and Rev. Will H. Huff. There are others just as worthy but these men ought to have a place in this preface and God bless them abundantly in the work of the Kingdom.

Let me say in conclusion, if these writings do not appeal to you, pass it on to some one else. Perhaps somebody in your reach would be made glad by reading it and help them to Jesus Christ and eternal life. Amen.

Yours in the faith,

H. H. PETERS.





# SALVATION LIGHT.

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## CHAPTER I.

### SEVEN EPOCHS.

When a lad of ten years old, my mother was taken away. It was on a Christmas morn. Before she closed her eyes in death she bade us good-bye; her last words to me were, "be a good boy." As far as I can remember, my mother lived a holy life. She seemed perfectly contented to go and be with her Lord, was conscious to the last and spoke about eternal things. I saw her eyes as they turned glassy and then she breathed her last. They laid her in a plain coffin and took her to the church house. The choir sang and the minister spoke such comforting words. We took one long look at mother's face, but she had gone to henceforth live in a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. They laid her in the grave, the clods of earth rolled down and fell hard on the wooden box, the minister said some more words, it was all over, but thank God for the memory of a saintly mother, who taught me the way of life and who always had a kind word and was willing to extend a helping hand to those in sorrow and distress. Dear mother, who may read

these lines, are you living right and honoring God in such a way that your children can look back in the years to come and bless God for a mother who not only looked after their temporal needs, but also taught them the way of eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

My father being very poor, hired out to a cousin living on a farm. My two sisters worked out by the week. A few years later, I too, hired out on a farm. After I had been working a number of days, I got real homesick to see my father. He had always been so good to me. He then lived in a little two-roomed house; there wasn't any carpet on the floor, no fine pictures on the wall. I do not remember we even had a rocking chair, but oh, how homesick to see my father. The first chance I got I walked home, and how glad he was to see me and how comforting for me to be with him. But months run into years. I was home most of the time until I was nineteen, but sorry to say, every now and then I would cause him trouble. I was not a Christian and greatly troubled with my temper. I would fly all to pieces and how this must have hurt his tender and loving heart.

When about seventeen I began to smoke and tell lies and soon learned to swear at a rapid rate. You need not wonder what kind of company I was keeping, for it was the roughest of the town. I learned to drink whiskey and attended

Sunday night dances. At the age of nineteen I hired out as a brakeman on the Illinois Central Railroad.

After working awhile I had a railroad accident and was partly to blame for it. I lied to the trainmaster and was severely reprimanded, but not discharged. I talked back and used impudent language, and was discharged for improper conduct. I started west and secured a similar position with another company. A few years later took sick with typhoid fever, and while in this condition I received a telegram stating that my father was ill and not expected to recover. I desired very much to see him once more, but he died and was no more, for the Lord took him. A year or more before this took place, I had "turned over a new leaf" and determined to live a better life. My early teaching at home never left me. The last time I bade my father good-bye, he turned to me and said, "I want you to pray." He said it so kindly and I remember how sad his face looked and how his heart must have yearned for my salvation. When I was about sixteen years old, a rich man had a mortgage on some of father's horses. He only had enough to do the work. The mortgage came due and the rich man foreclosed the mortgage. Father only wanted a little more time and hoped to pay the debt, but the rich man would not wait, and took a fine colt, and this made me angry. I resolved I would burn down the

man's barn and had the night set. My father heard what I was about to do and when the night came, somehow I did not go near the barn. Father told me afterward that he prayed for me all night. He had confidence in God. He did not threaten or try to punish me, but took it all to his heavenly Father. He had learned the secret of depending on God. Surely the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

After he was dead and buried I realized he had something in his heart I wanted. I was sick a number of weeks, but all the time had good treatment and my life was greatly cheered and helped by a fine young lady who brought me many a cold drink of water, and saw to it that my needs were well supplied. Not at all strange that she became my wife before the year rolled by. We had not been married but a short time when a converted gambler came to our town to hold revival meetings. We both attended, and I was under awful conviction, but fought it off night after night. Near the close of the meeting my wife made a profession of religion and was baptized by immersion. All this time my soul was in great distress. Another meeting started at the Methodist Church and we attended there. Finally, at the close of the meeting God seemed to give me a vision of my soul. I saw my poor trembling soul stand before the judgment seat of Christ and look me square in the face and say,



“I wanted to be saved, but you would not let me.” This was too much for me and I broke down. I said to myself, “By the grace of God I will not let my will power damn my soul,” and I got so contrite in spirit, that I was willing to go to any mourner’s bench to find salvation. By this time the meeting had closed, but I settled it in my bed room, and God the Father for Jesus’ sake, spoke pardon to my troubled heart. This was the first epoch in my Christian life, and His Holy Spirit gave witness to my spirit that I was a child of God. But one of my great troubles was, as I have already mentioned, cursing. I would utter many a secret prayer for God to keep me from forgetting myself and let out an oath. And thank God, He helped me, the lying and swearing ceased. I now had an appetite for God’s Word and loved the house of prayer. I remember I became very hungry to hear preaching. I went without my supper after a hard day’s work in order to attend meetings. I was now reading my Testament and attending the means of grace as I had the opportunity.

After we had been married a little over a year, a baby girl came to our house. How sweet it all seemed. About this time the second epoch came in my Christian life. The Spirit of the Lord impressed me to start the family altar. I was now “on a run” where I could be home every night. One morning at the gate as I kissed my wife good-

bye, I told her about being impressed to start the family altar, and was so glad she said alright. That evening before going to bed, I got the Bible to read some Scripture. We had company and I remember how my voice trembled and how needy and weak I felt to pray in the presence of company, but I am so glad I obeyed God and got victory in my soul and am so glad the family altar is still burning. As children grow up and may wander away from home and away from God, there is something about a family altar they will never forget.

I now seemed to be hungry and craving for more of the grace and love of God. I was reading here and there in God's word about holiness or sanctification (let me say here that I believe holiness begins in every truly regenerated heart), but I did not understand it. However, that part of not understanding it is all plain to me now. I had listened to the invitations given, that all who wanted more love or a better experience, or enter into a higher life, to come to the altar. In obedience to the craving on the inside and the invitation from the outside, I would go to the altar, but never seemed to get to any definite place. But remember, I was a seeker, and remember too, that Jesus said, "He that seeketh findeth," and so I did not give up. I kept on seeking, received some light and my faith was greatly strengthened by a good old saint who passed to her reward a num-

ber of years ago. She told me some good things and instructed me along the line of entire sanctification. All this time the Holy Spirit was leading me and the blessing was sure to come my way.

It happened about June, 1896, on Sunday morning in the town of Purcell, Oklahoma. I attended services at one of the Evangelical churches. The brother preached, or rather read, a sermon on, "The Love of God." While the reading was good, yet it did not satisfy my hungry heart. I made up my mind to attend some other church in the evening. I saw a little white church over the hillside, and as I came close to it, I saw a man on the outside dressed something like a priest. He had on a short, black coat, black cravat, smooth face and really looked to me like a Catholic priest. But I made up my mind to step in. Just then, he gave me his hand and bade me welcome. His name was B. S. Taylor, and if he lives he should read this book. I want to thank him once more for taking me by the hand and welcoming me to the service. The regular pastor was a young looking man, smooth face and large blue eyes. He, too, said he was glad to have me come. Under such a hearty welcome I stepped inside and took a seat. The meeting soon opened and the Spirit of the Lord was present. My soul got warmed and blessed. A testimony meeting soon followed and I was eager to speak and told the audience how God had blessed my

soul since I had come into the meeting. After a while the evangelist made a test and wanted all those who knew they had been converted to stand up. It was no trouble for me to stand, for I knew I had passed from death unto life and had the witness of the Spirit that I was a child of God. He then had us sit down and said, "Now you folks that have been sanctified stand up." I knew that I had never had the experience and so I sat still. Possibly a dozen or more people stood up and they seemed to have no fear or hesitancy to stand. They then sang a hymn to the tune of the old Irish song (The Wearing of the Green), the sermon followed and as near as I can remember, he preached on "Hell" and fairly raised the shingles off the roof. The sermon ended and the invitation was given for seekers to come to the altar. I felt my time had come, I must not delay, and so I marched up and knelt down seeking the experience of a clean heart. Brother Taylor soon led me out to seek it by consecration and faith, and the Holy Ghost wonderfully cleared my vision and I soon saw the light, not by feeling nor by works; nor by death, or growth; *but I was to believe God and receive it by faith.* I said yes to God and was given the witness that the work was done.

Up until this time I had no feeling but just told the congregation that God had sanctified my heart. This was on Sunday night. I arrived



home on Tuesday morning early and went to bed. I got up about noon or a little later and was sitting out in the yard talking to some folks that had come to call on us, when all of a sudden my whole spirit, soul and body were permeated with the love of God. The tears came to my eyes and salvation flowed from my soul and the folks could not understand what had happened, but I knew. All glory to His name! If I were to live here upon earth for centuries to come, I would never forget how the fire fell when the Lord sanctified me.

But testing times were in store for me. Up until this time I knew very little about the Scriptures, even though I had been reading them. I did not know that Daniel had prophesied that in the last days many shall be purified and made white and *tried*. But I hung on, the feeling had gone and I had the lesson to learn that the Christian must live by faith. I got it by faith and the Holy Ghost wonderfully filled me, but now I must live by faith and trust God every step of the way. I did not hear very much real definite holiness preaching. I did not know anything about the holiness movement until several years later, I got some knowledge concerning its object and work. Notwithstanding how God had blessed me I afterward fell in error concerning the carnal mind or inbred sin, and at one time I even fell from grace. But I hurriedly got back to God; my class leader and some of the spiritual people of the church

held me up to the Throne of Grace, and how glad I am they did help me and pray for me. How glad I am the Holy Ghost fairly pulled me back to the Father's house and the Father forgave my wrong and applied the all cleansing blood, and has established my heart and cleared my mind, and gives me victory in my soul. I write these things in order that I may help some one who may have had similar experience, or may even now be discouraged. But since God is so merciful and full of compassion, and since He so freely forgives His regenerated child that comes to Him having done some wrong, ought His sanctified child entertain any doubt or stay away since the Father is only watching and waiting to welcome him back too?

The fourth epoch came in my life a year or so after my sanctification. I felt and was impressed to give the Lord a tenth of my income. Again, I mentioned the matter to my good wife and like all women ought to do, she consented. We thought the matter over, and as my next pay day was not a full one, that is a little short on account of not working all month, we hesitated just when to begin, but we soon got straightened out and concluded to start the first pay day. I want to tell you reader, it was the best pay day I ever had. It seemed God smiled upon my soul, and the pay days have been many since I said "yes" to God and started to give the tenth. If we will only

give God a chance, not telling what He will do. One thing we do know, that He has promised that if we bring all the tithes into the storehouse, He will open up the windows of Heaven and pour out such a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it, and that is one reason the holiness people are talking so much about the second blessing. This second blessing is such a big thing. It simply fills up everything you have and runs over, and that is one thing the devil doesn't like—this running over business. We have mentioned it both in public and in private that there are two things necessary for the effectual work and spreading of the gospel. They are full salvation and the giving of the tenth. Full salvation means freedom from sin, and the giving of the tenth means plenty of money to run the financial side of the business of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Again, the fifth epoch came in my life a few years later when a wonderful desire came over me to memorize Scripture. I made up my mind to memorize a verse each day, and started in with the Gospel of Matthew. I would read one chapter a day and then memorize a verse in each chapter. Now and then I would skip a chapter as nothing in it seemed to impress itself on my mind. To memorize, and then again in order to drink in the thought of the writer, I would have to memorize more than one, perhaps eight or ten verses.

I took to memorizing chapters; you see the thing kept growing upon me until my mind became the dwelling place of many beautiful verses of Scripture. (Let me say here that I do not remember of memorizing any Scripture but what I first prayed the Holy Ghost to lead me and write it on my mind). Of course, I soon began quoting Scripture at the class meetings and at prayer meetings. I soon got to lining up Scriptures in my mind and classifying them. The next thing I would take a verse of Scripture and weave the Scriptures around it the best I knew how. At last, the Lord seemed to say to me, "I have given you all this Scripture, now what are you going to do with it?" I realized He wanted me to use and preach it.

Hence the sixth epoch came into my Christian life. When the impression came over me to preach the Word, while I did not feel called into the ministry, and for some time afterwards was not clear just what the will of the Lord was, but I hung on and finally got settled in the matter, that He wanted to use me on certain occasions a kind of "extra man," as we would say in railroad circles. You see the Lord knew I didn't know very much, but He could work me in here and there, now and then, and that would help me and please Him and work out all right in the end. My first opportunity to preach came several years ago. My friend and brother, R. E. Gilmore, was



conducting a revival in his own church, having with him two co-workers. I was at the meeting one Saturday night, he made the announcements and said, "There would be a meeting Sunday afternoon, but he did not know just what kind of a meeting it would be or who would lead it." I felt impressed to speak to him and the following morning I opened up my heart and asked him to let me have the afternoon hour. But he finally concluded I should have the evening hour. Of course the house was packed, preachers on the platform and preachers in the pew. I got up on the platform to preach. I had never stood in such a place before. I felt so awkward. I knew nothing of manners and gestures and eloquence, although I had seen a good deal of it, but I was "green" and did not know how to handle myself. I hurried through the best I could and finally quit, feeling I had disappointed both pulpit and pew. Of course they thought I would say something about railroading but I did not even mention a street car line. Well, after it was all over I felt I had made a failure and hoped the people would forgive me. But you know, I had to start somewhere.

I retired late that night and had a dream. It was not a long one, but I will never forget it. I dreamed I was with the angel of the Lord; he was by my shoulders and seemed to push me forward. The scene around us was that of a battle ground

and he handed me a slip of paper, across the face of it was written the figures 40,000. He gave me to understand that he loved me and then left me. I woke up and he had gone. I do not know what it all meant, but perhaps some day in the sweet bye and bye I shall know and understand. At any rate I intend to obey God and walk in the light as He may please to shed it across my pathway, and try and help some poor struggling hungry hearts into a better life.

There is only one way to live a happy Christian life, and that is, obey God at any cost. To receive light from the glory world is one thing, but to walk in the light is another. Jesus said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me him will my Father honor." There are others all around me who may be able to do much more than I and in whose presence I might seem as nothing, yet I am so glad I can have a little place in the workshop of my Lord and Master and do some little things, while others more able and blest are doing the big things and working out the things I couldn't begin to do. So you see God has and is giving me something to do and any thoughtful person can see how God was leading me step by step. For Holy Ghost conviction led to my conversion, my conversion led to the family altar; yes, to God and the family altar led to the experience of entire sanctification. Entire sanctification revealed the temporal need of

the Kingdom and giving of the tenth. Next the great desire to memorize Scripture, the memorizing of Scripture to the call to preach it, and this now brings me to the seventh epoch in my Christian life.

The writing of Salvation Themes and having them put in book form, having no other thought in mind but to glorify God and help my fellow man. And should this little book have something in it that has helped you or been a feast to your soul, first of all thank God and then if you desire to write me a word of cheer, why do so and that will help me.

In conclusion let me call your attention to the need of real definite preaching and teaching. Do not "beat around the bush" and avoid using certain scriptural terms because there may be some folks in your presence who may get offended, but remember the words of our Lord Jesus, for He said that "whosoever is ashamed of me and my words of him will the Son of man be ashamed before His Father and His holy angels." Second, when you realize your need, remember God is able and willing to supply your need, and do not stop until you get an answer from the skies. Hence, the need of real definite and earnest seeking, and when we get an answer to our seeking, a real definite living and witnessing to what our Heavenly Father has done for us through the leadings of the Holy Ghost and the power of the shed blood of the Son of God. Amen.

## CHAPTER II.

### PURE AND UNDEFILED RELIGION.

Victory in your soul when you come to die will be worth more to you than money in your pocketbook. To be able to hold a clear title to lands and houses here is a comforting thought, especially when the physical man is unable to toil any more, but to be able to read our title clear to mansions in the skies is much better.

If the mind of man can concentrate and make a success in temporal affairs, what doth hinder me from receiving the mind of Christ and make a success in eternal affairs.

If "godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come," why not step out by faith, claim the promise and live a life of godliness.

If God, the maker and creator of all things, has set up a standard for me to live by, why won't it be a good thing to die by?

If "today is the day of salvation," and "Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life," don't you think it is dangerous for you to want your own way? If when God calls me to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and I responded to the call and found peace and pardon in believing, why should I draw back when He calls me to consecra-



tion and holiness, since it's the same loving God that is calling?

If the Scriptures teach me that "all unrighteousness is sin," and "the wages of sin is death," why should I want to continue in sin, take out my pay in death, when I might yield myself unto God, get rid of all unrighteousness and secure the gift of God—eternal life?

If "it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment," why not here and now prepare to meet death, have victory in your dying hour and perfect love in your soul that will make you bold in the day of judgment?

If "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works," why not take God at His word, have your soul-house equipped with heavenly furnishings, make you perfect in heart and willing and active in good works?

If "the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost," why so much banqueting in the house of God and so little feasting in the Holy Ghost?

If the word of God tells us to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," why not reverence God, throw away your tobacco, quit tell-

ing filthy stories, and help God to perfect you in Holiness?

If we are to "watch and pray lest we enter into temptation," why blame somebody else after you fall, when in the first place you did not watch and pray?

If the keeping of God's commandments is not grievous, why should we grieve God by not keeping them and find fault with our children in not doing what we command?

If Jesus prayed the Father that "the same love wherewith He loved Him might be in us," why would it not be a good thing to pray the Father and claim this love by reminding Him of Jesus' prayer?

Since "the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men," what excuse will you have should you appear before God without it?

If Jesus will in no wise cast out any one who come unto Him, why remain a cast out when you might just as well be a millionaire since it's Jesus that bids you come.

Since the very God of peace has promised to "fill us with all joy and peace in believing," why go around doubting since it's simply believing that brings the all joy and the sweet peace?

If God has called us to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, why not obey God and avoid the danger of losing our calling?

If God has promised to "open up the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it," why delay the blessing by neglecting to give Him a consecrated life and the tenth of your income, since this is your part in proving God and pulling down the blessing?

If we are taught "not to be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not," why not take the advice, keep from fainting by keep on doing good, leave the results with God and trust Him for a good harvest?

If suffering is a part of the Christian's life, then it must be the first part and takes place in this present life. For we are told in Rev. 22:6, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, for on such the second death hath no power." So then the first death liberates us from a sick body and translates us from a world where sin and suffering exist, to a paradise where peace, love, eternal life, and Jesus Christ reigns supreme.

The Psalmist said, "Let everything within me praise the Lord." Evidently God has a process whereby He can, with our consent, cleanse out of our soul-house, all the fellows who are not praising Him, and thus make it a house full of praise. Paul tells us in Rom. 8:7 that "the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." And wise

men tell us there are thirty-six different manifestations of the carnal mind, and thirty-six of these "fellows" loafing around in my soul-house are not going to do me any good and they cannot praise the Lord because they have not a mind to do so. Thank God the blood of Jesus can cleanse or wash them out so that we can have a genuine praise service without any objections from the inside.

If walking in the light means fellowship with God, then it must be true that walking in darkness means fellowship with Satan. And if light represents righteousness and darkness represents sin, we could not very well walk in both at the same time, for Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters." Surely light and darkness cannot exist at the same time in the same place.

It is very unkind and also discouraging to folks for a preacher to tell his people about their sins and fail to tell them how the blood of Jesus is able to cleanse them from all sin. That instead of where "sin did abound, grace may now much more abound." In other words it isn't much comfort to tell folks how sick they are unless you can tell them of a remedy that can make them well.

It is a good thing for the folks around you to know you are a Christian and still better for you to know it yourself. But what sounds so good as to hear our Heavenly Father say, "Well done good



and faithful servant; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

Some people may have to guess whether you are a servant of God or not. But God doesn't have to guess, He knows, and so let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity, for we cannot deceive God.

It doesn't require much grace, if any, to sit down and milk a cow and watch the foam rise as the milk comes pouring into the pail. But when the cow kicks the pail over and makes a strainer out of your clothes, and you feel warm milk stealing down your ankle bone, it takes the grace of God then to keep you from kicking the cow and spilling your religion over the cow lot. Any way, what is a bucket of milk compared to a well of salvation springing up unto everlasting life?

You need little grace if any, to sit in a hotel lobby or railroad train and read the daily papers or some story book, but it takes the grace of God to sit in the same places and read your Bible.

It may not take much grace to return thanks in your own home, but it takes the grace of God to sit down in a public dining room and bow your head and silently thank your heavenly Father for the food before you, while all around the table are men and women who perhaps never bow before Almighty God.

It does not require much, if any grace, to point out the faults of others and magnify their sins

to your friends and neighbors, but it takes the grace of God to meet your friends and neighbors and tell them, "I was over and saw Brother John, I tell you he has some good points about him, and I am sure he has a desire to reach out for eternal life. What do you say friends, that we all pray for him, give him a kind word and lend a helping hand, for we too were once down and out, and if it had not been for the kind friends who helped us we might be far worse than Brother John."

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The supreme commandment that He gave was "that ye love one another even as I loved you." So if we really love Jesus, we will keep His commandments and will love one another, and if we love one another we will live at peace with each other and the peace of God that passeth all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

## CHAPTER III.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### JESUS' KINGDOM.

Luke 22:29.

Jesus' kingdom means salvation from sin, and the normal condition of that kingdom is peace and righteousness and joy in the Holy Ghost. It has a platform whose foundation is wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Its chief cornerstone is Jesus Christ, and of its government and peace there shall be no end. The conditions for entering that kingdom is true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, and a saying even so, to all the will of God. One of the things noticeable of its citizens is that they have love one for another. They do not seem to follow the pomp and glory of this world, but seem to be possessed with an inward grace to follow peace with all men, and holiness which they say is the ticket, or transportation, that gives them the privilege of seeing God. They tell me it does one good to look at them; they seem to have a shine on their face, a glow in their eye, a ring in their voice, a hallelujah in their soul. We are told they pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks. Their conversation and home is in heaven; they are merely pilgrims on earth.

## CONVICTION.

The older I get and the more I ponder and examine the Word of God the more I am convinced that in order to have a genuine revival, we must abandon ourselves unto God, the blood and the Holy Ghost, and pull together being of one mind and one purpose. Praying and supplicating for the Holy Ghost to bring mighty conviction on the people: for He the Holy Ghost alone can do that, and Jesus said, that when He should come, He would reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. And how wonderfully He can make the sinner see His lost estate, His awful doom and cause him to smite his breast and cry out in awful agony of mind and heart, "What must I do to be saved?" and when people get to the place where they cry out to God with a contrite heart and true repentance, they soon find salvation, and when they get through they know it. The neighbors find it out and the angels in Heaven rejoice, and the recording angel writes down one more name in the Book of Life. All because God loved him, Jesus died for him, and the Holy Ghost brought light, conviction, and finally peace, to his troubled soul.

## GOD IS ABLE.

It is a settled fact that if we let Satan rule our lives, he is able to make us abound in iniquity,



working that which is evil and at last dragging us down into a devil's hell, forever lost and banished from God and Heaven and eternal happiness.

But thanks be to God who is able to "deliver us out of the hand of our enemy, that we may serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life," for "God is able to make all grace abound toward you that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound unto every good work."

And He is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us." And John says, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." Thank God He is able. Let us give ourselves wholly unto Him.

#### MY PURPOSE.

Phil. 2:14, 15.

The other fellow may murmur if he wants to; he may wrangle if he chooses and live a crooked life if he so desires, but as for me I want to do all things without murmurings and disputings that I may live blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse people able to trace my citizenship direct to a country called paradise, a city named the New Jerusalem, a people whose God is the Lord, and whose peace and

tranquillity shall never end. I want to so live here and now that when I meet with some poor, downcast soul, longing and seeking after God, they may catch a glimpse of Jesus Christ shining through my life, that shall help them to the place where they will want to be and live like unto our blessed Lord. For John says, "As He is so are we to be in this world."

### JESUS IS THE ONE.

#### Hebrews I.

We are glad that "God who in sundry times and divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these later days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath made heir of all things and by whom He also made the worlds.

"Who, being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by himself purged our sins and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High, who being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. . . For unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever, a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of

gladness above thy fellows. And Thou, Lord, in the beginning hath laid the foundations of the earth; and the Heavens are the works of thy hands; they shall perish, but thou remaineth; and they shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

Most surely "He is the same yesterday, today and forever." He is the "Rose of Sharon," the "Lily of the Valley," the "fairest of ten thousand to my soul."

#### TESTIFYING.

Philemon 1:6.

"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing in you, in Christ Jesus."

In more than one place in the Scriptures we notice it is God's will and to His glory that we tell or acknowledge any and all works of grace which have taken place in our souls through believing in His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For after He has once blessed us, and we would forever keep silent it would only be a question of time we would lose the experience for it naturally would wither away and die. God, the Holy Ghost illuminating our souls and we keeping

still about it, puts me in mind of a flash of lightning without an after clap of thunder. Somehow when we see the lightning rend the clouds, we expect to hear the cannon roar of thunder, and as a rule the rain begins to fall, refreshing the earth and in turn causing the plant life to grow more abundantly.

Even so when the Holy Ghost illuminates our minds and fills our hearts, we must tell it and our heavenly Father will open up the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing, not only on our souls but also make others to rejoice, because they have a consciousness that God has given them the same thing **H**e has given you, and stir up in others a desire to be more earnest and faithful in days to come.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THREE THINGS.

There are three things in this article that we notice about the disciples. First, they tarried; second they received; and last, they witnessed. In strict obedience to the commandment of Jesus the disciples tarried at Jerusalem and while they tarried there they did not sit around in idleness waiting for something to happen, but they prayed and supplicated and waited for the promise of the Father. They did not let go until they prayed through and received an answer from heaven. We have thought a number of times why so little tarrying and why so much hurrying people through. And perhaps oftentimes almost forcing them to witness to something they themselves did not seem to possess. If it took ten days of earnest waiting before God for the disciples to receive the promise of the Father, we ought not at all get discouraged if we have to come to the altar of prayer and consecration night after night or day after day, since we are told "That God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6.

The oft coming and earnest seeking will surely be rewarded with an answer from heaven that will satisfy our souls, please God, and defeat the devil. For instance: We have been to revival



meetings where the evangelist would "score" folks and force them out in the congregation to do personal work. Ofttimes perhaps people who had no talent or gift along that line and sometimes folks who were on the "outs" with their next-door neighbors. Then sometimes a half dozen people talking to one sinner (but not a seeker) surrounding him, all trying to beat the other in having something to say and gain the attention of the one bombarded, and then as seekers would march up in front and the workers had ceased their work, some one in the congregation would be called upon to pray. After a while the seekers would be asked the question, "Do you believe on the Lord Jesus" and "Do you accept Him as your Savior?" The secretary would then come forward and take their names. Now we would not be so unkind as to criticise an evangelist's earnest efforts to get people saved and we have no intention to make light of or discourage any seeking soul. We believe some people do get salvation under those circumstances, but brother, why not allow the workers to go out under the leadings of the Holy Spirit, instead of the lash, so to speak, of the evangelist. And why not give the seekers a chance to tarry and pray through and have God speak to them. But have I met all conditions, and does Jesus accept me, and does He give me the witness of the Spirit that I am a child of God? It is one thing for me to ac-

cept Christ, but it is altogether another thing, does He accept me. Hence the necessity of clear and definite teaching and real earnest seeking. For this kind of teaching and seeking will make us finders in the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Again we noticed when the disciples met the conditions and tarried until the day of Pentecost was fully come, the Father verified His promise and the Holy Ghost fell upon them with great power, purifying their hearts by faith and filling them with the pure love of God. We can easily imagine that scene, for no doubt some were crying, some were shouting, some laughing, some were leaping and praising God and still others were so quiet and yet so permeated with the love of God that they could not say anything. But they all were blessed and all manifested the blessing in their own way. And as the Spirit gave them utterance they began to speak and testify and this brings us to the last thought—they witnessed.

They glorified God and His Son Jesus was lifted up and exalted, and there was such a stir and power in the meeting that people up town heard it, got ready, came down to the revival and of course Peter stood up and the eleven with him, and as Peter preached to them with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven warning them to flee the wrath to come, and pointing them to

Jesus Christ the Savior of the world whom they had killed and with cruel hands had nailed to the cross, and as Peter preached and the Holy Ghost came upon the people with convincing and convicting power they cried out, "men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:38, 39.

We would like to bring out the thought that before we can witness we must have something to witness to. And we cannot very well witness to something we do not have. For if we do we are liable to hinder other folks, for some will say, "If that is what you call salvation, I don't want it." You see there is a twofold way of witnessing for Jesus. One is to let Him guide us and rule us in our daily living and business relations with others and the other side is telling folks at prayer meeting and testimony meeting what God is doing for us and how we love Him and want to serve Him and these two must agree. And, as a rule, folks will be convinced by our daily walk in life rather than by our testimony in prayer and testimony meeting.

Again we notice that after Pentecost the dis-



ciples had victory and power in their witnessing. They didn't seem to be afraid any more, but stood up boldly and declared that Jesus was the resurrected Christ and that there wasn't any other name given among men whereby we must be saved. Preaching and testifying that Jesus of Nazareth was and is the risen Lord and Messiah that was to come meant persecution, imprisonment and death to the loyal band of early Christians. But Paul writes, "none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, that I might finish my course with joy. Yea, I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung in order that I might win Christ."

Paul was bright, and a scholar of no mean reputation. He could have won the honors of the world but he much rather desired to win Christ. Peter had the gift of leadership and might have worked himself into a good position, but he chose rather to take up his cross and follow Jesus and the fact that he suffered persecution and imprisonment only drove him closer to his Lord and his soul full of love and hope enabled him to look beyond all temporal things. And as he writes his first epistle, he says, "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the

Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace unto you, and peace be multiplied.”

Just think of a man going up and down the country, through villages and cities despised by the leaders of the church, suffering evil treatment and on his way to at last suffer crucifixion with his head downward and yet carrying in his soul the mercies of God and a whole multiplication table of peace and singing out, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

We notice Peter was on his way to heaven and had heaven in his soul, and as he preached Jesus the resurrected Lord and Savior of the world and witnessing to people around him, he led many to eternal life, but he also met with bitter and stubborn opposition and had to lay down his life for the cause which God loves and the devil hates. In John 15:20, Jesus said, “Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you: if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” And in the 21st verse He said, “But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they

know not Him that sent me." Any people anywhere who plan to do violence or evil to any one anywhere because they may not be in line with their church or belief, are murderers in heart and strangers to the love of God and eternal life. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, and where the love of God reigns in the heart of man the very thought of doing his neighbor an unkind act is repulsive to his well-instructed soul. And yet we hear of people going up and down this world running to and fro claiming to be the children of God and yet planning to kill, burn, flay, boil, bury alive, poison or strangle, devastate, even dash out the brains of innocent children and babes and refuse to show mercy to either sex or age. And this is going on in the twentieth century. If every man and woman would lock themselves up and be alone with God for at least thirty minutes the Holy Ghost would reveal to many the blackness of their hearts and no doubt many would hear the voice of Jesus saying, "Why persecutest thou me? but arise, and stand on thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of these things, in which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I now send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgive-

ness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26: 16-18.

Thank God, we have His promise that if we tarry He will not disappoint us, but He will come and take up His abode with us and then when we have faithfully tarried and He, our heavenly guest, has come to stay, let us be careful how we live lest we grieve Him and His sweet presence slips out of our soul. But let as many of us who claim to be God's children and servants of Jesus Christ, remember the words of the beloved Jude who wrote, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference, and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever." Amen.



## CHAPTER V.

### FOUR THINGS.

#### REJECTED OF MEN.

My mind this evening has been occupied with the sufferings of Jesus Christ. I have Him pictured as a man with a kind look but a very sad face. And when we consider His life so full and complete in helping the unfortunate, healing the sick, cleansing the leper, opening the eyes of the blind, unloosing the tongue of the dumb, causing the deaf to hear, raising the dead and speaking words of cheer and comfort to the oppressed, feeding the hungry, stilling the angry sea, restoring reason to the maniac, casting out devils, forgiving the sinner and dying with a prayer for His enemies, and yet in the face of all these and many other good deeds, we are reminded He came into the world and the world was made by Him and they knew Him not. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. He must be born in a common manger. He had no place to lay His head, no home. They cast Him out of the synagogue, they called Him a devil, accused Him of being gluttonous and winebibber. They said He was a blasphemer and a deceiver; with howling mob they made Him a prisoner. They arrayed



Him in mock apparel, spit in His face, smote Him with a reed, His temples adorned with a crown of thorns, His body lacerated with scourging, His hands and feet pierced through with cruel spikes, and crying out in derision and mockery they said, "Others He has saved, now let Him come down from the cross and save Himself." He, our blessed Lord, was misunderstood, misrepresented, forsaken by His own, suffered awful agony of soul, sweat drops of blood, His suffering even unto death. No wonder Isaiah prophesied of Him saying, "His visage was marred above any man, He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him. He was oppressed and afflicted and we esteemed Him not. As a lamb led to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment and who shall declare His generation for He was cut off from the land of the living, for the transgressions of my people was He stricken. He poured out His soul unto death."

Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Oh, what a Christ this Christ of mine! how clear and forcibly it comes home to me. The sufferings of Jesus Christ, He who suffered for our sins, died for our salvation, rose from the grave for our resurrection. He who has done all of this and prayed the Father who has sent the

Holy Ghost into the world to help every sinner to repent, every believer to believe, every saint to rejoice, yea, hath suffered all things and hath made all things possible for our full and complete salvation, here and now. Amen.

### PURE HEARTS.

The Patriarch David asks a question and then answers it. He asks, "Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord and who shall stand in His holy place?" His answer is by stating, "He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord and from the God of His salvation."

The prophet Daniel in looking across the space of time, wrote "that in the last days many shall be purified and made white and tried."

The prophet Malachi exclaimed and penned it centuries ago that "when Jesus would come, He would purify the sons of Levi and purge them as gold that they might offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness."

And Jesus Christ our Lord as He sat on the Mount of Olives, made mention of this same thing. He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

The beloved John in writing on this theme in 1st Epistle, 3rd chapter, 1st, 2nd and 3rd verses,

“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.” “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is and every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself even as He is pure.”

The Apostle James lifts up his voice and cries aloud, “Cleanse your hands ye sinners and purify your hearts ye double-minded. Be afflicted and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness.” And I ask the Apostle James why this mourning and why this weeping and he answers, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up.”

The Apostle Peter in writing on this theme says, “Seeing ye have purified your soul in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” 1st Peter 1:22. In Acts 15:7, Peter tells of how God sent him to preach to the Gentiles, and in the 8th verse he states that God gave the Gentiles the witness of the Holy Ghost, and in the 9th verse he said that God put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. The thought we desire to bring out in this little article is that God has planned and willed that all of His children

shall have pure hearts and made free from sin, and that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost each have a part and work to perform and are ready to perform their work and will create a pure heart within us if we will only meet the conditions and let them do it. We do not need money, position, education, or talent to get it, but we must believe that God can do it, and it is His will concerning us and we will have to realize our need of it and want it bad enough to go anywhere or do anything the Holy Spirit may suggest in order that we may find it.

Purity of heart will be the ticket or transportation that will entitle me to see God. It will be the experience of heart that will make me bold in the day of judgment. It will be the substance in my soul that will cause me to love my brother with a pure heart fervently. It will be the thing in my life that will shine as the brightness of the firmament and if I possess it, live it, and keep it, it will turn many to righteousness. Yes, it will make me feel, look, act and walk like a person in this world, but not of this world. Our conversation will be in "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report." If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, we will think on these.



## UNDERSTANDING.

The world somehow has often failed to understand why some men and women have undertaken great things for God and humanity, when apparently according to their insight there didn't seem to be any ground or reason for such a movement and they even have scoffed and ridiculed and made light of the very people God sent to be a blessing to them. But we have only to turn to Hebrews 11:7 and we learn that "by faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet moved with fear, and built an ark to the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." God knew and Noah obeyed God and afterward dwelt in safety while multitudes perished in a watery grave.

Again, we have heard of people and have actually met with some who seemed to have some hidden power in their inner lives that made them act, look and live like unto our Lord Jesus, for when they were reviled they reviled not again, when they were misunderstood or misrepresented or falsely accused they took it all patiently. They seemed to back off or hide in some secret place with their Lord and knew of a way of committing all things to Him who careth for us, and if we want a reason or key to their hidden power, we have only to turn to 2nd Cor. 4:7, and they de-



clare that they "have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. We are troubled on every side, but not dismayed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of our Lord Jesus that the life of Jesus might also be made manifest in this our body."

Again, we have known of people who claimed and testified that they had been made free from sin and had even gone out of the sin business; become servants of God and were able by His grace to bear fruit unto holiness and went as far as to state that they had the promise of eternal life and therefore expected to live forever. And so to satisfy our minds of the correctness of such witnessing, we need only to turn to Romans 6:22, for we read that "now being made free from sin and become servants unto God, ye have your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life." Indeed nothing is too hard for our Lord if we let Him have His way with us, for He has promised to save us from our sins, lead us by His spirit, guide us into all truth, keep us unto the end, and at last dwell with Him in heaven where there shall be fullness of joy and pleasure forever more.

I want to be broad enough to please God and help my fellowman, and narrow enough to keep the devil out. Amen.

## A BEAUTIFUL SCENE.

Recently I sat in a fairly large church and observed and mused. And since then, I have thought what would be the most beautiful scene one could witness. I thought of the choir as they all sat to one side, every one of them dressed in neat garments and singing songs of Zion. Then I thought a moment and said, "No, this is not the most beautiful scene." I thought of the preacher as he walked the platform and poured out the gospel truth, his every nerve tingling with power and his eyes flashing as he fought against sin, and how his voice rang out as he exalted Jesus Christ. Then I thought a moment again and said, is this the most beautiful scene? And I stepped back to the belfrey and watched the janitor as he rang the bell. I listened while the bell was calling saint and sinner to the house of God and thought how many people who were waiting to hear the ringing of the church bell. And I thought, is this the most beautiful scene? Then I stepped up behind the sacred desk and peered into the faces of a large crowd; some would nod their heads in approval of what the preacher said. I saw some who gave a smile of welcome as the truth sank into their hearts, and I heard some say "Amen!" as the Word went forth with power. I looked again and saw the tears of joy and sorrow intermingle as the heavenly manna fell from the skies.

I said, "Is not this the most beautiful scene?" And while thus musing, I imagined I saw a poor sinner downcast and forlorn; at first he seemed to hesitate, something seemed to be holding him back. I saw him struggle as he broke loose and coming down the aisle, he fell at the place of prayer, and cried out, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

I said to myself, this is the most beautiful scene. For to this end was the church erected, to this end did the church bell ring; to this end were the songs of Zion sung; to this end were the prayers offered; to this end did the preacher preach. Yes, to this end did the Son of God die, and this kind of a scene brings joy to the angels which are in Heaven.

## CHAPTER VI.

### SIN.

Even as God the Father is the author of Holiness and all true happiness, so Satan is the originator of all sin and all subsequent misery. Someone has said, "If you dance you will have to pay the fiddler." And so if we commit sin, we must pay the price. It is not then a question whether we want to pay the bill or not. God says your sin will find you out; and what we do in secret will be blazed from the house top. Disobedience is Satan's password into the mind and heart of man. If he can get a son or daughter to disobey Father or Mother, a Christian to disobey his Lord, a church to set aside some fundamental truth, he has gained a foothold which will bring misery to the son, sorrow to the daughter and death to the church. He comes to us as an angel of light and has a way of flattering us; of filling us with pride; of saying who is like unto thee. He has the birds singing on our heads; the flowers blooming at our feet; the air filled with rich aroma, almost lifting us to the skies. He makes all kinds of promises; in fact, he fairly breaks down with them and unloads them at our feet. "Take them; they are yours; eat, drink and be merry; enjoy yourself, be a good fellow; yes,



a hale fellow well met." And one of the sad and awful facts is, he has dragged many a poor, lonely wretched soul into hell, who, in the hour of despondency, rather than face the world, took their own lives and thought to end it all.

Sin is an awful thing. It is the one thing that separates the soul from God and eternal life. It has and is separating many homes. Fathers against mothers, and mothers against fathers, children against parents. It has and is ruining multitudes of people. It is responsible for all crimes; all misery; all heartaches; all shame. Who is he or she that has not at some time, or is now a servant of sin. For we are told that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

It was the result of sin that caused Cain in anguish of soul to cry out, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." It was sin indulged in by Saul, king of Israel, that made him cry out in despair, "God is departed from me. He answereth me no more, neither by prophets or by dreams." It was sin that brought on the flood and buried its victims in a watery grave. It was sin that made David fall, for he afterwards cried out, "My sin is always before me." It was sin that made Saul persecute the Church of Jesus Christ; Judas Iscariot to betray his Lord; the Sanhedrin to stone Stephen; Herod to behead John; Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Ghost; the Jews to cry out, "Crucify Him! Cru-



cify Him! and let His blood be on us and our children.”

Sin blinds our spiritual eyes, deadens our moral nature, empties us of righteousness, fills us with prejudice, envy, malice, bitterness, deceit, murder. It begins in disobedience, its end is death. Oh, what sorrow, weeping, wailing, bitter remorse and death it has ministered to countless numbers of people, beginning with Adam until the present time!

But thanks be unto God, there is a remedy for sin, made possible through the shed blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So that where sin did abound in my life, grace may now much more abound. For in Isaiah 55, we hear God saying, “Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord and He will have mercy and to our God for He will abundantly pardon.” David writes, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be like wool, and though they be red as crimson, they shall be whiter than snow.”

Jesus said, “Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Christ died for the ungodly. He suffered death for every man, that whosoever will

may come. If we do not come to Him, He has done all He can. He has made all arrangements for our redemption. He prayed the Father for our forgiveness, He shed His blood for our cleansing, He sent the Holy Ghost to convict us of sin and to show us our need of salvation. He wants to dwell in us, He desires to lead us and strengthen us, and to help us every step of the way. God the Father has saved the chief of sinners—men and women who because of sin have been down and out, sad and lonely, forsaken, destitute and in despair, who have caught a glimpse of Jesus Christ the friend of sinners and through the pleading of some Christian worker, some mother's prayer, some father's godly life, some sister or brother's love, have by the help of the Holy Ghost broken loose from Satan, and, like the poet, has sung out, "I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms. In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, thou art ten thousand charms."

I have in mind a cashier of a certain bank who was living in sin. His family lived an extravagant, worldly life. His salary seemed insufficient to furnish enough money to keep them going in their sinful career, and like many a man he began using the bank's money to keep the butterfly life supplied with the wanted means. This was kept up until it reached a large sum. He had forgotten his sin would find him out until one day the Board of Directors called him to give an account of the

missing funds. The following day he was to meet this body, but the night before the Board was to meet, he wrote a letter to the officers of the bank in which he said, "My next address will be in hell, and I hope to meet you there." He stole out of his bed room about midnight, walked down the railroad track, stepped to a lonely spot, placed the revolver to his head, blew out his brains and sent his soul into eternity. These are sad and awful words, and yet friends, it shows what sin will do. Oh, what a different letter he might have written, and what a different ending his life might have had and what a different place he might have gone to! If he had only met the officers of the bank, confessed his guilt, asked their forgiveness and made restitution as far as he could, and then turned to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of his sins, and by the grace of God lived a pure and upright life. In later years he could have written a different letter, reading something like this: To the officers of . . . . . bank: A number of years have passed since I misused the bank's money. You know boys, God helped me to confess and you were so good to me. You gave me a chance to make it right and, now by the help of God, the old debt is paid. I have, since I met you and confessed my guilt, lived a different life. Jesus has washed all my sins away, my wife and children have been converted and now our home is so happy. Boys, I want to tell you I won't be

with you so very long. Somehow I feel the end is not far away. Yes, I know I am on my way to a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God and He tells me in His blessed word, "There shall be no night there and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign forever and ever. If you don't hear from me again remember my next address will be in the New Jerusalem and I hope to meet you there."

Of all the sad words, "it might have been." Sinner, come to Jesus, He will not turn you down, no matter how deep in sin you may be. Confess it now. The Holy Ghost will aid you and He can break that proud and haughty will. He can melt that stoney heart, and can lead you to the fountain of cleansing. He can give you the assurance of sins forgiven and can lead you into a holy life. Sinner do it now, for the sake of your own precious soul, for the sake of father, for the sake of mother, for the sake of brother, for the sake of sister, for the sake of others who are in sin. Yes, for Jesus' sake, who shed His precious blood and who died for the ungodly, do it now.

"Oh, what amazing words of grace  
Are in the gospel found!  
Suited to every sinner's case,  
Who knows the joyful sound.

Poor, sinful, thirsty, fainting souls  
Are freely welcome here;  
Salvation, like a river, rolls  
Abundant, free, and clear.

Come, then, with all your wants and wounds;  
Your every burden bring:  
Here love, unchanging love, abounds,  
A deep, celestial spring."



## CHAPTER VII.

### THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

If regeneration is the foundation of the Christian life and the beginning of holiness in the heart of man, for Jesus said, "Unless a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven," and John wrote that "whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin," then according to Jesus' own words we must be born again, and according to John's statement that when a man is born of God he goes out of the sin business. And the fact of our going out of the sin business is to be the evidence that we are born of God; and the fact that we still continue in sin is evidence that we are children of the devil. 1 John 3:10. It looks to me that according to God's word regeneration is a high standard of Christian living, and who will deny the fact that before a penitent sinner can be born again he must forsake his sins and promise God in truth that he will never take them up again, but by His grace be right and do right as long as he lives. But supposing he finds out that after he is born of God and the seed of true holiness has sprung up in his heart, he finds there is an enemy on the inside opposing and fighting against the will of God, and at times causing him to fall, would you be willing to let

God destroy this enemy and make your heart perfect in holiness, so that the holiness He begun in your heart at regeneration might have a better chance to grow and bear fruit in entire sanctification? But notice, if after being born again and started in the way of holiness, and if after being made perfect in Holiness you should fail by doing something or not doing what God has revealed you should or should not do, I say would you be willing to go back and do the first works, repent, make the wrong right and ask God to forgive you and then by faith step under the cleansing blood and thereby be restored in the love of God and healed of your sin? While our heavenly Father is grieved when we fall, and while we don't need to fall since He has abundance of grace to keep us from falling, yet the testimony of many seemingly earnest Christians is that they have grieved the Holy Spirit at different times in both their justified as well as their sanctified life, and more than once we have had to come back in shame and humility and implore God's mercy and forgiveness. While it grieves the Holy Spirit to see us fall, yet it would grieve Him infinitely more if we didn't take hold of God's promises and make a mighty rush and struggle to get back on our feet, and realize His forgiving and cleansing grace. And right here is where some folks have become cold as well as dry in the Christian life because pride sprung up and love went out. And

the fact that they did not humble themselves before God and man is the reason they do not seem to enjoy the things of God they once did.

In James 5:16 we are told to confess our faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. Now it is delightful to get up in a testimony meeting and tell folks what victory God is giving me. But perhaps some of us would have more victory in our souls if we would tell some of our faults. How about the other day when I did not have any victory in my soul, and how about that struggle I had last week when it seemed as though the very demons of hell were let loose on my soul, and for a time seemed to overpower me. Yes, my very thoughts and actions were anything but godlike. And how in the hour of my defeat and despondency I once more looked to God from whence I received help and thank God, brethren, I got victory in my soul. The fact that I fell is not to God's glory, but the fact that I did not stay there but looked to God for help and grace is to His glory and will help somebody else defeat the devil. While no doubt, there are many people in this world who may have victory all the time, yet we believe the majority cannot thus testify.

Again we take another step in the Christian life, and we notice the Christian must live by faith, and though he may have a consciousness in his soul that he is on good terms with his Lord,

yet there will come testing times which will try our faith. In 1st Peter 1:5 we read: "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations. That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." There have been times in our own Christian life when it seemed we were forsaken by everybody. Yes, even by our heavenly Father. We had no feeling, no joy; and these seasons would last for days. We however, would hold on to God's promises and the consciousness that we were His child would stay with us, and then after a while, as the clouds would clear away, and once more God would smile on our souls, how glad we were we did not let go, but simply clung to His promises and held on by faith. Feelings and circumstances may seem against us, but remember the Christian shall live by faith. Just think of Job. At one time he was the richest man in the East. He had great flocks and herds. His servants were many; his daughters were fair; his sons he loved; his wife he adored. But one day the Sabeans came along, stole his cattle and killed his servants, the lightning struck his sheep and burned up his herds-



men. The Chaldeans with three bands rushed upon his camels, took them away and slew his servants with the edge of the sword; the cyclone demolished the home and killed his sons; his lovely daughters died; his body became afflicted with awful sores; and at last his wife turned on him and said, "Now curse God and die." But when this avalanche of sorrow and disaster came sweeping over Job like a mighty tidal wave, He got down before his God and poured out his soul unto the Lord and our heavenly Father opened up the windows of heaven and poured into Job's soul a healing stream, and when Job got up he said, "the Lord has given, the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." And I have thought that multitudes of Christians have been helped and comforted through the sufferings and faithfulness of Job.

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, Paul in speaking or writing on faith when He came to the thirty-second verse, he wrote, "And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak and of Samson, and of Jephthae, of David, also of Samuel and of the prophets; who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire; escaped the edge of the sword; out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens,



women received their dead raised to life again, and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings; yet, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth," etc. And when our mind runs back over the Old Testament worthies who thus endured and suffered and died to keep alive on earth the faith once delivered unto the saints, I love to step over on the Isle of Patmos and stand by the side of the beloved John, and gazing at that great cloud of witnesses, I hear the guide asking John, "Who are these and whence came they?" And then John said, "Sir, thou knowest," and the Heavenly visitor said, "These are they who have come up out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Yes, I hear Him say in another place, "These are they who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth."

Abraham, Moses, Job and an innumerable company of God's children have trodden this old world, and at last have mounted the everlasting hills of God with victory in their souls. But while down here they had to walk by faith, and that faith to them has become sight, and so we read again, "This is the victory that overcometh the

world, even your faith." It is so sweet to notice how a child will believe what Papa or Mamma says is so. Why, you could promise them any good thing your mind could turn to and they would believe it. Why, of course, Papa said so, or Mamma said so, as the case might be, and how it must please our Heavenly Father to see His children taking hold of His word, stepping out on His promises and with the keen eye of faith see beyond all trials and sufferings pressing heavenward, regardless of feeling or no feeling, joy or no joy. But mind you, faith will at last bring joy, and joy brings assurance, and assurance brings victory, and victory in our souls will defeat the Devil.

Again we take another step in the Christian life, and we notice we must have and maintain good works, for James tells us, "Faith and works go together;" they are twin brothers, so to speak. We are known by our works; God recognizes good works, but hates evil workers.

And this brings us to the closing thought, and that is, be true to God and faithful in whatever line of duty He may call you. If you find out that you have been doing something that is not right, quit it. If you are not sure as to this, that, or the other, as profitable for your soul, or which might prove a hindrance in your Christian life, let it alone. When you are fully convinced what God's will is concerning you, obey God. If some one

says evil things about you that are not true, don't retaliate, but keep sweet, and generally about this time it is a good thing to drop down on your knees and talk with God. However, if you have done or said something that is wrong, make it right. Don't wait to rectify a wrong, hasten to fix it up. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath. Be careful to keep a good conscience void of offense both toward God and man. Grieve not the Holy Spirit. If others in the church can pray, sing, or testify better than you can, let not envy spring up in your heart. If you are gifted on any of these lines let not pride come into your heart. Pride will cause you to fall; it is a dangerous thing, and has kept, and is keeping many from doing what they know they ought to do. Pride will make you ashamed of the wrinkles in your mother's face. It will make you ashamed to walk down the streets with your aged father, especially if he is poor and wears worn garments. It will keep you from being humble, and if you don't get rid of it, it will at last bring bitter remorse. So in putting on our heavenly dress, let us see to it that the beautiful garment of humility is well fastened on so it won't lose off. In fact, it is one of the high priced garments in the heavenly wardrobe. If you can't do the big things in God's kingdom, be sure to do the little things. Somebody must take up the odds and ends. Anyhow the spirit of being willing to take a lowly

and obscure place in this world, is far better than to move around in prominent circles with an air as much as to say, "I want you to notice I do things." Then again it takes just as much and perhaps sometimes more grace to do the little, unnoticed deeds in God's kingdom, than the big things that cause people to sit up and take notice. Let us be glad for the men and women who are gifted and can do the big things, and let us also give thanks to our heavenly Father who has helped us to do some little things for the betterment of mankind, and has used us to cheer some lonely soul in some lonely place.

Finally, remember the words of our Lord, "Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of Heaven from my God." Rev. 3:11-12.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

In this article we do not mean to say unless you join some church you cannot be saved, but we do insist and entreat that if you are earnestly striving to serve God, you ought to join some church and identify yourself with God's people in some organized form. For if we did not have any church members we would not have any churches, we would not have any preachers, we would not have any revivals, no sacred place for shepherd and flock to meet together, no church bells to ring out their mellow and soul-inspiring chimes. And what blessing and what sacred memories cluster in and about the Church of God, the place of thine abode, and how many hungry seeking souls have been converted, reclaimed and gloriously sanctified while listening to the preached word and bowing at some altar in some particular church. In joining the church of your choice be earnest in life and true to God and determine by His grace to lay aside all strut and pride and pomp of this world endeavoring always at all times, in all places to live as near right as you know how.

Now some folks condemn the church because there are some church people in the church that



are not right, and because some are "dead as a door nail." If I were in a church like that I would have to sing out and testify mightily what God is doing for my soul or I would die too, and if I were to continue in my praises to God something might happen; either the church would line up and get salvation, or else some of the leaders would line up and request that, "whereas this, that, and the other, in my continual testimony was not conducive to the peaceful and quiet slumber to our most beloved and highly esteemed congregation, we the undersigned do hereby request that your membership cease in this church until death doth us part." While it has been done yet there is not so much danger of being put out of the church if you live as you testify, are true to the doctrines of your church and remember that common sense and genuine salvation go hand in hand. Fanaticism never had any place in the Church of God and the same devil that causes good folks to run off into fanaticism holds others back and keeps them from running off into anything that is genuine and good.

There is, however, a wide difference between a church member and a Christian (every church member ought to be a Christian). A church member is a person who has their name written in the records of some particular church or denomination, while a Christian is one that has his or her name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The secretary, or keeper of this book, met the beloved John on the Isle of Patmos and said, "He that overcometh shall be clothed in white raiment and I will not blot out his name out of the Book of Life, but will confess his name before my Father and His angels." Rev. 3:5. But that wasn't all he said about this Book of Life, for John said, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened; and another book was opened which is the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works, and the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works and death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, and whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:11-15.

This scripture surely ought to bring us to our knees and, by the help of the Holy Ghost, search our hearts and see if we harbor or possess anything that would hinder God in writing our names in the Book of Life, for it will be an awful thing in the day of judgment to hear the voice of God saying, "Depart from me into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.!" Matt. 25:41.

My dear reader, I hope you may become a church member if you are not already. But above

that I covet for you eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, and your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. John says, "Hereby we may know that He abideth in us by the spirit He has given us." And if we have this knowledge of His abiding presence we may rest assured our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. But if you are a church member and never had this knowledge or perhaps had it and lost it, do not get discouraged; come to Jesus, let Him make your heart right and give you the evidence within that you are a child of God, an heir to everlasting life. Oh, what a privilege, what a responsibility to be a church member, a child of God, and how this ought to move us to be active in the church and careful in life, and faithful to our trust.

Before leaving this question or theme of church membership, we desire to call your attention to some things that exist in thousands of churches today which are deplorable and no doubt a fulfillment of prophecy recorded in Rev. 3:14-18. It is not the lack of money and church buildings so much today as it is the lack of a real, genuine spiritual life in the hearts of many who profess to know God. True, there are a host of spiritual people but they are not the majority. Jesus also said, "Broad is the way and wide is the gate that leadeth to destruction and many there be that go in thereat, because straight is the gate

and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." John in Rev. 22:14-16 said, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and offspring of David the bright and morning star." In 2nd Tim. 2:19, we are told "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His. And let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." Hence, since I am a church member and professor of salvation, it will be necessary for me to be a possessor also and have within my soul the consciousness of the Spirit of God bearing witness with my spirit that I am a child of the King; hence for real definite preaching and real definite teaching, and real definite seeking and praying and waiting before God until we hear that sweet small voice speaking peace to our waiting hearts. And when God has so blessed me by His grace I am going to be definite in my life and witnessing. And having thus started well, I am going to walk in the light, get my eyes off the folks around me and center them on Jesus, who loved me and gave Himself for me.



Again, we have heard conservative men make the statement that there is hardly a sin committed in the world but what the church does the same thing, and how often we have been puzzled to know just how to tell the difference between a church member and a worldling, for they so often act just alike. Some time ago we had three preachers riding on our train; one was smoking a cigar, one a pipe, and the other a cigarette. I thought if I had only one more with his jaws full of "Star Plug" or some other brand, I would have the thing complete, but if I was one of those preachers I would hate awfully to have any of my children or Sunday school scholars to see me. Now do you think that these preachers are really the men you want to teach your children, and are they doing the will of God? A preacher must be clean, and that includes me as a church member.

Again, we have noticed church members who gave the church a large number of fans, and on the fans advertise their business, so when you would look at the fan you saw the man's name that gave the gift and also a reminder of what he had to sell. Is it right for a church member to advertise his business in the house of God? How much better would it be and appropriate to have the fans free of advertisement and have printed on them something like this: "Prepare to meet thy God;" "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life;" "Come unto me all ye



that labor and are heavy laden;" "He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out," etc. This kind of scripture would bring conviction to the careless and glorify God and the Holy Ghost could use it to the salvation of souls, but He couldn't very well use boots and shoes, groceries and a full line of summer gowns.

Another painful thing we have noticed in the church is disobedience or indifference to the request of earnest pastors. We can call to mind more than one church where the pastor would ask his congregation to kneel while he offered a prayer, and only about thirty or, perhaps forty, would kneel out of a congregation of four or five hundred people. If you have so much pride in your heart you are ashamed to kneel, you had better come to Jesus and let Him take it away. If your gown is so expensive you don't want to soil it, better buy a cheaper one, and you will have to give to him that hath none. If it is neither pride or fine clothes that keeps you from kneeling, and somehow it is a lack of courage, go to Jesus who is "able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work." When the preacher says, let the congregation stand while we pray, both saint and sinner will arise and respect the preacher's request. How much more needful for the Christian to kneel when asked to do so, since it helps the preacher and no doubt pleases God,

encourages some weak member and strengthens your own soul.

Another thing we have noticed in church members is Sunday travel. We know there are times when Sunday travel is necessary, but how often do church folks start on a pleasure trip and oft-times business trips, when such a thing is not consistent with God's Word. We remember, as a boy, our parents would not allow so much as the splitting of a little kindling wood on Sunday. Everything must be done on Saturday, and the Sabbath was revered in refraining from any work and the usual week day pleasures. While we were not a Christian then, yet in after years when we did become a Christian, the early training and teaching concerning the Sabbath had a wonderful effect on our life, for we now seem to have the same respect and reverence for the Sabbath our parents had. We also remember the same God who wrote on tablets of stone, "Honor thy father and mother," also wrote, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Jesus said to the disciples, "If ye love me keep my commandments." In another place He said, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father and I will love him and will manifest myself to Him." In still another place He said, "Not all that say, Lord, Lord shall enter into my kingdom,

but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

My dear church member friend, if we have been careless or indifferent to God's commandments and have not been faithful in His kingdom, let us from now on seek His grace and find it and go where He would have us go, say what He wants me to say, do what He would have me do, and be just what He would have me be. And when the Church of Jesus Christ will line up and walk in all His commandments, we will have a church “fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.” Amen.

## CHAPTER IX.

### THE WORD OF GOD.

I have said many times, both in public and private places, that if any one will read the Scriptures thoughtfully, earnestly and prayerfully, it would lead them into a useful and healthy Christian life. But when I say thoughtfully, earnestly and prayerfully, that means one must be alone with God for a few moments and weigh these words carefully and let God's Holy Spirit impress them upon the mind and lodge them in the heart. For the Holy Spirit must first have an entrance into our hearts and full control of our minds and only then can He take of the things of God and show them unto us. From Adam on down through all ages, the children of men have been pointed to God and His word. The Ten Commandments have been given never to be repealed and how effectively they point us first to our duty to God and then our duty to our fellow man. We are to bind them around our necks and place them in our hearts, not only to sway our own hearts and lives heavenward, but also to be able to teach others and rightly divide the word of truth. David said, "Blessed is the man who delights in the law of the Lord and meditates upon His word day and night." He said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my

feet and a light unto my path and the entrance of Thy word giveth light." And how often have we been blessed in memorizing His word and quoting it to others. Again God says, "As the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither but watereth the earth that it may bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall every word be that goeth forth from my mouth. It shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish that which I please and prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." Whatever the opinion or unbelief of man relative to the sureness of God's word, it makes no difference, for Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away, neither shall one jot or tittle fail but all shall come to pass. When Jesus joined Himself to the two disciples on their way to Emmaus they at first failed to recognize Him and after He made Himself known, He opened unto them the Scriptures and, "beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." How necessary for the disciples of Jesus to understand the Word and how hard sometimes to walk in the light unless we have His Word to illuminate our understanding and light up, so to speak, our spiritual natures. Every Christian should have a keen appetite for the Word of God. The intensity of the appetite may differ somewhat at times.



Jesus in resisting the devil after He had been tempted to make bread out of stones, answered him and settled that point once for all in saying, "That man doth not live by bread alone, but every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." At another time in speaking to the disciples He said, "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify of me."

When Paul wrote of the crucifixion of our Lord, he said, "According to the Scriptures." When he referred to His burial, he said, "According to the Scriptures." When he mentioned His resurrection, he still clung to the Scriptures. When he addressed Timothy, he said, "As a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation by faith which is in Christ Jesus." And he adds that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." When he wrote to the Hebrews, he said, "The word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, even piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and joints and marrow and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." John tells us that "In the beginning was the word and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we

beheld His glory even the glory of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth." This passage of scripture refers directly to the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But in Col. 3:16, we are exhorted to "Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in our hearts unto the Lord." Happy the individual who drinks in the word of God and allows his or her mind to become the dwelling place of the scriptures! The Word of God in such a case when prompted by the Holy Spirit will meet our every need and condition. For when the house burns down, He will whisper in our ears, "in my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Somehow if our efforts in doing good seem unappreciated we are again reminded "not to be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." If we are tempted and tried, He again picks up the word and tell us that "Jesus was tempted in all points as we are," and if we will but keep our eyes on Him, He will provide a way of escape and spoil the tempter's plans. If we lack grace to do what God wants us to do, again we are told to "approach the throne of grace boldly that we may obtain grace and help in time of need." If a spell of laziness seems to take hold of us we are again reminded "Be not

slothful in business, but fervent in spirit serving the Lord." If somehow we feel it is our duty to run other people's business, we are again reminded "what is that to thee, follow thou me." When somehow our hearts are broken and our very spirits crushed because that which was and is so dear to our hearts was taken out of the home in its sweet innocency He again comes by our side and says, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven," and He just keeps on comforting our souls by telling us that "In Heaven there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things have passed away," and He keeps adding more comfort by telling us that "these words are true and faithful." If we are tested and tried we have these words that "in the last days many shall be purified, made white and tried." And we ought to rejoice that this threefold blessing of purification, holy character and tested soul life is ours now, to prepare us for the life which is to come. If we are tempted and tried and somehow the way seems hard, we are informed that "blessed is the man who endureth temptation for when he is tried, he shall receive a crown of life with all them that love His appearing."

Many people lose out and are often sidetracked because of their lack of Bible knowledge. Hundreds of people would never have joined the

“come outers” had they read and listened to the Scriptures instead of some mistaken leader. They fail to remember that “Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it.” And since Christ loved the church we ought to stay in the church. There we can serve Him best and let our light shine the brightest. If any one needs to be a “come outer” it is the one who fully ignores that sacred edifice and who loves worldliness rather than godliness.

We notice in Jesus' life and ministry His custom was to go to church on the Sabbath day. Oh, how I would love to have had a seat in the synagogue when He read the Scriptures and after handing the book back to the minister said, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your hearing.” Many have run off into wildfires and fanaticism by following wrong spirits because they failed to read the beloved John who wrote and said, “Try the spirits and see if they be of God.” There is great danger and no doubt some souls have been shipwrecked by following wrong impressions, supposing that they came from God, when later it was made plain that God had nothing to do with it. But after a close examination we learn that Satan had been around as an angel of light and poisoned our minds and got us side-tracked. Beloved, we need to stick to the Word and give the Holy Spirit a chance to lead us on



and up, for He alone is able to keep us on the main line to glory, virtue and true holiness.

God says, "Come and let us reason together," and surely all things essential to our salvation are so plain and easy to understand that even a fool or wayfaring stranger shall not err therein. There are some things I do not understand, but thank God for the things I do comprehend and I expect to understand more as I grow older. Peter speaking and writing of the Apostle Paul's epistle said, "In which are some things hard to understand which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures unto their own destruction." How foolish for a person to reject the Scriptures because they cannot understand all. When a boy of nineteen, I applied for a position as brakeman and was put to work. Suppose I would have stepped down and out and said, "I don't want the job because there are a great many things about railroading I cannot comprehend, I do not understand them." Why, no, I took the job and was glad to get it, and as I grew older I kept learning and I am still learning, and do not pretend to know it all yet. However little we may understand or how weak our faith may be, let us hang on to the little and exercise what faith we have and soon more light and greater faith will be ours. God has been able by His word and through His spirit to lead many safely through to the end and give



them an abundant entrance into His everlasting kingdom, and surely God is calling every man, woman, boy and girl to repentance and faith in Him that He may prepare and fit them for everlasting life. Jesus suffered in Gethsemane's garden. His blood dripped from Calvary's cross. He tasted death for you, for me. Thank God He arose and was lifted up that He might draw all men to Himself. Come, let us read His word, study it well, treasure it in our hearts, bind it around our necks. It will illuminate our minds and guide us home to the Father's house. Amen.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE MIND OF CHRIST.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 2:5.

Paul in writing to the Philippians or Church at Philippi, calls their attention to a grace which comes with full salvation and is twofold in its nature, for it not only gives the seeker a holy heart but also a spiritual mind. For if our three-fold make up of spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless until Jesus comes again, we must be taught, led and governed by that prince of minds, the mind of Christ, and to possess the mind of Christ would mean to love God with all the heart and with all the soul and with all the strength and his neighbor as himself. For this kind of love worketh his neighbor no evil and if we ask the question, who is my neighbor, the answer comes back, any one in this wide world who may need my attention, sympathy or aid. Hence, there was a great divine principle born in the heart and life of Paul which not only made him effective in the writing of the Epistles and preaching of the word, but there remained a great desire in his soul that every man, woman, boy and girl who professed to know God might also have a spiritual mind, the mind of Christ.

I stopped at a friend's house one time and was given a drink of cistern water. My friend explained to me that the water was pure and free from filth. He showed me how the filter on the side of the house prevented any dirt from getting into the cistern, for as the dirt and water would both flow from the outside down to the filter, the filter would separate the dirt from the water allowing the water to flow into the cistern while the dirt would be held back and the water thus remain pure. I have often thought what a wonderful filter a true spiritual mind is to the soul. For when the heart is once cleansed it must be kept clean. The mind of Christ is on the alert ready to separate the evil thoughts from the good, allowing the good things to drop down in our hearts and dealing a death blow to evil thoughts right on the very threshold of our minds. Thank God every child of His can have such a mind,—the Mind of Christ.

The Apostle Peter in writing on this theme stirs up our minds by saying, "For as much as ye know that Christ suffered in the flesh arm yourselves with the same mind; for He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin."

Again, the Apostle Paul in writing to the Romans, said, "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service; and be ye not con-

formed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Be of the same mind one toward another; mind not high things but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceit for whatsoever was written afore was written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like minded one toward another that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God according to Christ Jesus." A spiritual mind, thank God, the Mind of Christ.

Again, in writing he says to the Corinthians: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." A spiritual mind.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." Also in the eighth chapter of Proverbs we have this language: "I was set up from everlasting from the beginning or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before



the mountains were settled, before the hills was, I brought forth: While as yet He had not made the earth nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When He prepared the Heavens, I was there; when He set a compass upon the face of the depth; When He established the clouds above; when He strengthened the fountains of the deep; when He gave the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment; when He appointed the fountains of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him. And I was daily His delight rejoicing always before Him." Surely this must have been the mind of Christ.

The Patriarch David wrote: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law doth He meditate day and night." Here we notice a person referred to whose mind is centered as well as fixed on God's laws, and David tells us this kind of a man is a happy man for he calls him "blessed."

Again stepping over into the New Testament and turning to Colossians 3:1, 2, we are exhorted to be heavenly-minded, for the Apostle Paul wrote: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.



The Apostle Paul here writes of a spiritual mind or nature, which will keep us steady and secure even though all things temporal may be taken from us. Joseph must have possessed this kind of a mind for we notice in his dealings with men as well as women, he was determined to be true to Jehovah and give God the glory no matter what happened. How tender and sweet his language as he spoke to the butler in prison whose liberty was to come speedily, as again he would be restored as the king's cup bearer. And Joseph said to him, "But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee unto me and make mention of me unto Pharaoh; and bring me out of this house, for indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews; and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon." But strange as it may seem the butler forgot Joseph and it wasn't until Pharaoh dreamed a dream which none of his wise men could interpret that the butler happened to tell Pharaoh of how Joseph was able to interpret dreams and when Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him his dream, Joseph answered Pharaoh saying, "It is not in me. God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." Joseph's mind was fixed on God and although he suffered unjustly, yet he took it all patiently and the Lord led him on to victory and eternal life.

Again we have often thought of Daniel, a cap-

tive in a foreign land, how from the very beginning he purposed in his heart he would not defile himself with the king's meat. He was determined to live a clean life and not forsake the teachings of his parents or the ways of his God. A band of wicked men could not scare him. Neither could the king's decree keep him from kneeling down before an open window with his face toward Jerusalem and pray to the God of his fathers. The dark and gloomy recesses of a bloody dungeon, the glaring eyes of ferocious lions, the awful stench of human gore could not make him recant. No wonder while Daniel was passing through all this that the king's heart was smitten with bitter remorse and sleep went from his eyes and hastening to the den of lions he cried with a lamentable voice, "O, Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?" Then Daniel said unto the king, "O, King, live forever, my God hath sent His angel and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: for as much as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O, King, have I done no hurt." Daniel a man of prayer, a man of faith, "O, Daniel a man greatly beloved." He walked uprightly, he lived a simple life; he had a humble heart, he was obedient to the will of God. He possessed the mind of Christ.

Again, my heart has often been stirred and

my faith strengthened and my mind enlarged, as I have read and thought of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. King Nebuchadnezzar had made an image of gold and set it up in the plain of Dura and issued a decree that at the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer all people, nations and languages must bow down and worship the Golden Image and any person failing to do so would be cast in the burning, fiery furnace. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow and worship the graven image and when they were summoned before the king they answered and said, "Be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the Golden Image which thou hast set up." Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage changed against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Therefore he spake and commanded that they heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army bind Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and to cast them into the burning, fiery furnace. And sure enough they cast them in but after awhile when the king looked through the iron grates he staggered back, a look of alarm and consternation spread over his face and turning to his counselors he said, "Did not we cast three men bound in the midst of the fire?" And they answered and said unto the king, "True, O King."

And Nebuchadnezzar said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

These three Hebrew children could have obeyed the king's edict, they might have lined up with a degraded and cowardly populace, they could have avoided the fiery furnace, but notice, friends, their minds were fixed on Israel's God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Man could make a golden image and build a fiery furnace and heat it to a white flame and go so far as to throw God's faithful followers into it, but "Lo, another steps in, like unto the Son of God" and delivers them out of it all. It was a trying hour to stand before the king with a death penalty hanging over them and say to the king, "We will not serve thy gods, nor worship the Golden Image which thou hast set up." It must have been a still more trying time to stand before the fiery furnace. But notice, "they halt not, they stagger not, they recant not, the favor of the king, the applause of a giddy, frivolous world. The penalty of being burned to death is nothing to be compared to what happened in the fiery furnace. No doubt they did not know that their bodies would escape an awful death, and I imagine as they walk to and fro in the fiery flames I hear the Son of God saying, "When thou passeth through the waters I will be with thee, and through the rivers they



shall not overflow thee; when thou walketh through the fire thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flames kindle upon thee."

Thank God for such men as Joseph, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The cruel hands of Jacob's sons, the enticing words and lying lips of a fallen woman, the glaring eyes of hungry lions, the devouring flames of a fiery furnace had no power to drag them down, but rather to prove to the world that God has some folks that are true, they can't be scared, they can't be bought. Joseph passed from a dungeon to the governor's chair. Daniel was lifted out of the lion's den, and, dwelling on the banks of the River Ulai, he became the mighty prophet of God. The three Hebrew children came forth from the fiery furnace, were given positions of trust, and Nebuchadnezzar cries out, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego." But friends there is a secret to this thing, a hidden treasure, a pearl of great price. Surely it must be they had a spiritual mind,—the Mind of Christ.

Before we leave these Old Testament worthies and direct your thought to one like unto the Son of God, we can't help but see that the grace that stands out so prominently in their lives was a humble mind. They seemed to be possessed with the spirit of humility and that brings us to one of the beautiful treasures that dwelt in the mind of



Christ. He was so high and yet so lowly, He so rich and yet so poor; so bold and yet so meek. He left His home in glory, surrounded by angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim. He bade farewell for a time at least, to the everlasting hills of God where the rich aroma of God's peace and love fills the air with perfume rare. He came down into a sin-cursed world, took upon Himself the form of a servant, went about doing good, only to die an ignominious death on the cruel cross; and He did it that He might save every penitent sinner, heal every homesick backslider, sanctify every heavenward bound believer, and at last glorify every blood-washed saint. Again we notice He was born in a humble place, a manger in a stable was His resting place. His mother was a humble woman, His father a humble man. I imagine that even the cattle in the stalls were unusually docile the morning of His birth. There must have been a kind of an amen look out of their eyes and the cud-chewing must have been unusually sweet to their taste. The angels had already sung "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." How wonderfully the Christ spirit will change the heart of man, will make him peaceful with his fellowman and kind toward the dumb brute as well. One of the unpleasant memories and one that saddens my soul is the recollections of unkind words spoken to loved ones and friends and

acts of cruelty administered to dumb animals entrusted to my care. I ask the question, would the humble Christ do a thing like that, and the answer comes back, No. But there is always a ray of hope for the one who seeks to do better and we hear our Savior say "Go and sin no more." Yes He was the humble Christ. He not only was humble in heart, but He taught humility. He said, "He that exalteth himself shall be abased, but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." He said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls, for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. How often have we noticed in God's dealings with men, in exalting them to a position of trust and honor, He seems to delight to call on men and women whom the world does not see. Yea, we are told "Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are," and the Scripture adds, "That no flesh should glory in His presence." If then Jesus Christ was the very essence of humility, taught it, preached it, and lived it from the cradle to the grave and

and from His resurrection to His ascension, is it not only reasonable to conclude and sensible to believe. "He is the same yesterday, today and forever," the humble Christ.

Let us take another step in this beautiful theme and note that His humility was coupled with divine love. He was the loving Christ. John tells us in the first Epistle 4:19, "We love Him because He first loved us." The great commandment that Jesus gave was "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you." Jesus the Christ of perfect love knew that where divine love rules the human heart it would put an end to family quarrels, would stop the nation from going to war, and would establish peace throughout the entire world. We must insist that Jesus came to this world in the spirit of love, that He taught in the spirit of love, that He lived and prayed in a spirit of love that He died a hard death because he loved a lost race. His love is so great that it can reach the vilest sinner, can touch and fill to overflowing the one who has been farthest from Him. Bud Robinson tells us in one of his sermons that he "loves Evangelist Will Huff enough to marry him."

We are told that David's love for Jonathan was above that of women. There is a place in this present life that everyone of us can attain to by consecration and faith in which the Holy Ghost will thoroughly purge our heart and fill it

with divine love, and not until this takes place will we be able to love our Lord above everything else. The disciples loved the Lord. There was something in the way He spoke that touched their hearts. There was something in His actions that won their confidence. Those who got near to Jesus discovered that He was lovely as well as lovable. Yes, the disciples loved Jesus, and in order to be with Him and enjoy His presence they forsook their occupations, they bade farewell to father, mother, brother and sister. They left everything that was near and dear unto them in order to follow Him, but when their love was tested, Judas betrayed Him, Peter denied Him and the rest of them forsook Him. "But Jesus having loved His own He loved them to the end." Jesus knew that love would cover a multitude of sins. He knew that love in its fullness would not waver, and when put to the test it would not forsake. So He prays the Father in the 17th chapter of John and the 26th verse, "That the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them." But some one will raise the question, Was not the love wherewith the disciples loved Jesus divine love? and we answer, "Yes, in one sense it was because it was a filial love, and filial love can be so used by the possessor as to bestow in loving things unrighteous. He has power, so to speak, to rule over filial love and cause it to love things that God can't love. But God



has a divine love that when we possess it, it will possess us, and will bring our filial love in right relationship to the God who gave it. Notice the change in the disciples when they get this experience of perfect love. It was on the day of Pentecost; something unlovely was taken out of their hearts. Peter referring to it afterwards said, "Our hearts were purified by faith." A Roman court girl could not scare Peter now: the glittering swords of Caesar's army; the threatenings of the High Priest; the rattling chains of prison walls; the prospect of a cruel death had no power to make them deny or forsake their Lord any more. Thank God, Jesus' prayer in their behalf had been answered, their hearts were cleansed from the man fearing spirit and filled with divine love. So dear reader, that prayer was prayed for you and me and still holds good, and if we haven't already done so, let us help Jesus answer that prayer by putting ourselves in such position before God so that we may too love Him with all the heart and die for Him if need be.

Then again, we would notice He not only was the humble Christ and the loving Christ, but He was the patient Christ. Isaiah prophesied of Him and said, "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth." Truly in patience Jesus possessed His soul. He could have acted otherwise but as humility must be



without pride, and as love must be without dissimulation, so patience must be free of interfering with the Father's will concerning Jesus' mission in this world. Yea, patience seemed to bridle or control His every act and thus perform her perfect work. He seemed self-possessed at every point. When He was reviled, He reviled not again; when He was spit upon He could have spit back; when He was apprehended and arrested by a howling mob He could have summoned twelve legions of angels and they would have obeyed Him and destroyed His enemies from His holy presence. When He was nailed to the cross He could have freed Himself, but not so. Jesus must be patient in suffering; a lost world was at stake. What was the sound of taunts and jeers, what was the ingratitude of a graceless world compared to the exhibition of a sweet spirited, self-sacrificing and patient Christ. What deliverance and power and victory Jesus has brought to multiplied millions because He was patient even unto death. Yes, how many times have we misjudged people because we did not take time to investigate; how many times have we said and done the wrong thing, because we were not patient. How much better it would have been had we thought more and said less.

Perhaps a word, a look yea, oftentimes a silence backed up by a holy character would not only have sweetened our own life and kept us on good

terms with the Lord, but who knows what telling effect it would have had and how much would have been accomplished had we been fully possessed with divine patience and waited, instead of rushing into words and acts, detrimental to the cause of Jesus Christ. The Lord help us to keep our souls in patience and thus glorify God and honor the Holy Ghost.

But we would take another look at the mind of Christ, and not only notice Him as the patient Christ, but He was also the aggressive Christ. His life was one of service. "He came not to be ministered unto, but came to minister to all who would have Him." He said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work." John tells us in his last chapter of his great gospel, twenty-fifth verse, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." Then he winds up by saying, "Amen." If we will but read the gospels we can see some of the many things He did and notice every one of them were good works. As He passed He drew every one heavenward that was willing to go His way. His ear was open to the cry of the needy, His heart was touched with compassion when He saw the distressed and afflicted. His hand was ready to help and His lips

were ready to comfort the sad and lonely. I imagine His body must have grown weary oftentimes so tired, for He did so much. And to think that in the midst of His ministry and ministering the masses failed to appreciate His wonderful works. As our brother Will Huff has said, speaking on the mind of Christ in His boyhood days, "I must be about my Father's business." In the closing days of His life He said, "I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do."

And this reminds us that God the Father has a work for every son and daughter in His kingdom, and happy are we if we find our place and do our work faithfully. While there are other characteristics of the mind of Christ, such as the obedient Christ, and other points that have been brought to our mind, yet we desire to conclude this article by noticing Him as the victorious Christ.

He, our Lord, was master of every situation. There was nothing too hard for Him. Obstinate cases of long standing were just as easy for Him to cure as new ones just developing. The angry seas had to quit their frightful tossing when He said, "Peace be still." The raving demoniac sat down in his right mind when Jesus bid the demons depart. The burning fever could not stay where Jesus placed His hand or where a heart of faith could reach His mind. When the woman spent all her money and the physicians all their

skill, she was healed immediately when she touched Him. He could make a lame man walk as straight as a saint, and a dumb man shout with joy; the blind, crippled, deaf and dead, were made to see, hear, walk and live. He could ask questions no man could answer, and answer questions no man could solve. He knew the end from the beginning and which end to begin on. He had the power to do things as well as undo them. He could manifest His righteous indignation and drive the money changers out of His Father's house, and yet weep over a lost world. He could line up and condemn a herd of hypocritical priests and show them how they were on their way to an awful hell, and at the same time move with compassion on a fallen woman and say, "Go, sin no more." He could weep with them that weep and rejoice with them that rejoice. He had power to lay down His life and power to take it up again. He could speak until men would cry out, "We never heard man speak as this man." Or He could keep silent until His accusers burst out with rage, "Answereth thou nothing?" He could look sad and at the same time have a joy the world knew nothing of. Isaiah said of Him, "He shall not fail nor be discouraged until He have set judgment in the earth and the isles of the sea shall wait for His laws." In John 16:33 Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world



ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"; Yes, He was the victorious Christ. He came into this world in poverty and yet left it with untold riches. He came in obscurity and left it in publicity. His descending place was Bethlehem's manger; His ascending place was Olivet's mount. The angel sang, "Glory to God," when He came, and Zacharias said, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people and raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." His life was a victorious one from the cradle to the grave. Not from an outward observation as the world might see it, but from an inward knowledge of having done the will of the Father, who sent Him. And having performed all things according to the Scriptures necessary for the redemption and complete salvation, not only was His life a victorious one from the cradle to the grave, for mind you, the grave was not a stopping place for our Lord. It was merely a resting place for His tired body while His soul made exploits, the full extent of which eternity only, may be able to announce. For He came back the third day as He said He would, and stepped forth from the tomb, the risen Lord, victorious over sin, hell and the grave. But when the disciples met

Thomas and told him, we have seen the Lord, Thomas would not believe it, and he answered, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe. And after eight days again His disciples were within and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." Amen.

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE HOLY GHOST.

I do not remember of ever hearing the Holy Ghost mentioned or referred to, but what it made an impression on my mind in one way or another. And I have noticed this also, that some people seem to call Him the Holy Spirit and hardly ever use the name Holy Ghost. Again, I have noticed that when He is spoken of as the Holy Ghost it produces a peculiar feeling of awe and delight to my own mind and heart that doesn't accompany the term Holy Spirit. Now of course, personally we believe in using any and all terms which God has revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and our heavenly Father also uses the name Holy Spirit, but I ask myself the question, why this difference and peculiar impression when He is mentioned as the Holy Ghost? Again, when we think of Him we remember that He is the third person in the Holy Trinity. He always was and is, and always shall be from everlasting to everlasting.

We read that in the beginning of creation the earth was void and without form and darkness covered the deep. It further declares that God's Spirit moved on the waters and God said, "Let there be light and there was light." Gen. 1:2-3. Here is the first place He is referred to, and be-

ginning in Genesis and all through the Scriptures He is referred to not only by name but what He is, and what He does. For through the Holy Ghost we have the Holy Scriptures, the Divine Word of God. It was the Holy Ghost that preserved the sayings and records of men's lives and other happenings, and years and centuries afterward moved upon holy men of God, inspired them to write it down, so that every succeeding generation might profit and receive good. Paul, in writing to the Romans, said, "Whatsoever things was written afore, was written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope," and while the enemy of our souls has tried to put the Word out of existence, He has utterly failed. For we remember Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away." And since the Holy Ghost has the power to preserve all Scripture and does preserve it, the devil has changed his tactics. He seems to have called a halt on Bible bonfires and now is working hard to poison men's minds, both in pulpit and pew, that this, that, and the other statement in God's book is not true, and the way false doctrines and satanic literature are being scattered over the earth, he evidently has possession of many hearts and dictating through many minds.

Again, when God said, in His word, "My spirit shall not always strive with man," He referred to



the Holy Ghost. When John on the Isle of Patmos heard the message to the seven churches and listened to the angel say, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches," it brought into prominence and put into the foreground the Holy Ghost. When Jesus said to the disciples, "I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter," He had reference to the Holy Ghost. He further spoke of Him, saying, "How be it, when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come." Again, "He shall glorify me for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." And since the Holy Ghost has always been with the Father and with the Son and knows all things, it is a very easy matter for Him to take of the things of God and show them unto us. In meditating upon this, I have pictured myself standing in a large dry goods store with a competent clerk on the inside of the counter and myself on the opposite side, and looking at the clerk reaching up and taking the goods from off the shelves, placing them on the counter and showing them to me. He seems to know just how to do it, even so the Holy Ghost can and does reach into the deep things of God. He knows just how to take the goods from off the shelves and place them on the counter of our hearts, and as he knows our

every need, He knows just what piece of goods to show us. And all we have to do is to step up to the counter, pay the price and carry away the goods. In the first dispensation we have God the Father in the foreground, speaking to and revealing His will to mankind, and as many as obeyed Him were led on to victory and eternal life. In the second dispensation, we have Jesus Christ in the foreground made manifest in the flesh, and as many as believed on Him gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on His name. But now in the third dispensation, we have the Holy Ghost in the foreground and His office work is to reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. Of sin because they believed not on Jesus; of righteousness because He went back to the Father and we would see Him no more; and of judgment because the prince of this world is judged.

The first thing He does is to reveal to men that they are lost in sin and on their way to death and hell. He not only uses the word of God, and mortal lips of clay to convict people of their sins, but He moves on the mind and heart in such a mysterious way at times that brings an awful spirit of distress on the soul, and many a person has utterly broken down under such conditions, have fled from the wrath to come, confessed it all and by His help made crooked things straight and wrong things right. They said yes to God and

are now by His grace living a life of peace and true happiness. But it took the Holy Ghost to do these things, and all honor to Him by whatever instrument or means He uses to bring sinners to repentance and produce faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who alone is able to save us from our sins and keep us saved.

Again, when God saves a sinner He intends to keep him saved all the days of his life; hence we need instruction and guidance along this line. And so the Holy Ghost comes to guide us into all truth, for by obeying the Holy Ghost is our sonship guaranteed. For the Scripture says, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God." The second thing the Holy Ghost does is to lead the converted sinner in paths of righteousness, and show him his need of a perfect holiness, or in other words, a pure heart cleansed from all sin. In like manner, He uses the word of God, employs lips of clay, and calls saints to witness to the power of the blood of Jesus to purify and make holy and preserve blameless, spirit, soul and body, until Jesus comes again. And as He witnesses to pardon to the repentant sinner, so He witnesses to the sanctification of every believing and trustful heart.

Again, the Holy Ghost not only comes to reveal to us our lost condition and sinful state, and our need of a full and complete salvation, but He comes to give us power to do the will of God. To

illustrate what we mean is this: when I was a sinner and servant of the devil, it wasn't any trouble for me to lie, to curse, to steal, etc. Why? Because I had the satanic power within me to do these very things. But notice. Since I have turned my back on sin and Satan, set my face heavenward, said yes to God, and by His grace stepped out of sin and walked in the light of God, He has destroyed the works of the devil, cleansed my heart from all sin, and filled it with His own divine love, and causes me to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments. And since the Holy Ghost is the power in my heart to do the will of God, I must listen to His voice, let Him keep me and set my house in order. He has a way of arranging the furniture and placing everything where it belongs. In fact, He does it so well I am perfectly contented for Him to take charge. It seems so good to have Him, He is so delightful. He has the cellar filled with the promises of God, the kitchen cleansed from all filthiness, the dining table set with strong meats and delicious fruits. If I go with Him to the sitting room, it is only to sit down in heavenly places. When He takes me into the library, He shows me the word of God. When we climb into the attic I hear Him say, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," and when I retire, I find a motto in my bed room saying, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee."



Yes, the consciousness of His presence comforts my heart, stays my mind, strengthens my soul, dispels fear and gives me courage, increases my faith, makes hard places easy and rough places smooth, causes me to love everybody and hate only sin. He puts a hallelujah in my soul; a shine on my face; a glow in the eye; and a ring in the voice. He directs my walk, regulates my speech, makes slumber sweet and life worth living.

Again, the Holy Ghost attacks sin in all quarters and especially in high places. He loves all men and yet hates all sin. He loves the sinner's soul, but abhors sin in any form. He is true to God and faithful to his trust. He made Daniel brave in the face of death, and caused Felix to tremble at the thought of the judgment. He kept Joseph true and spotless in the hour of temptation, while Saul without Him died in despair. He gave to Stephen a serene and perfect peace in His last moments, while His enemies gnashed upon Him and stoned him to death. Peter without Him denied his Lord in the presence of a maid, but Peter with Him was not afraid to be crucified with his head downward. Samson without Him was helpless in the presence of his enemies, but Samson with Him could destroy the Philistine playhouse and send thousands to the judgment. Paul, a stranger to Him, made havoc and persecuted the Church of Jesus Christ, but Paul in possession of Him cries out, "It is no more I that live,

but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Before John had Him, he craved the most prominent place in Jesus' kingdom, but after he received Him, he was willing to be banished to the Isle of Patmos for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ. With Him, Jeremiah was able to diagnose his age and look centuries ahead, while the careless and indifferent in his day did not know a real prophet when they heard Him. Dear Christian, have you received the Holy Ghost?

## CHAPTER XII.

### PRAISING GOD AND KEEPING SWEET.

One of the most beautiful graces that our heavenly Father has stored and keeps in stock in His house of good things for the children of His kingdom, is the gift of divine patience or keeping sweet. And if we are really in possession of this grace, it will keep us under any and all circumstances. For every good and perfect gift cometh from above and will do and is just what God says and recommends it to be. Isaiah, that great prophet, said, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee," and God will never fail the heart who fully trusts in Him. And since God is the maker and owner of this our mortal body, and has promised that "all things shall work together for good to those who love Him," why then, should we shrink or doubt His ability to keep us sweet, no matter what happens?

We have heard and seen people get angry about something and then try and justify their action by saying, "This is enough to make a preacher swear," when the real fact in the case is that the same God that can keep the preacher sweet can keep any one else sweet. It works the same on both preacher and people. It makes no

difference whether you are black or white, brown or yellow, rich or poor, high or low, learned or illiterate, employer or employee. It does the work, thank God! He can keep us sweet.

We remember Bud Robinson telling of his early Christian life, how he used to drive a balky team and when the team would balk, Brother Bud could have jerked the lines, yelled at the top of his voice, picked up a club and pounded the team on the head and backslid, but no, he simply picked up his Bible, went to memorizing Scripture, and today his face bears the marks of a sweet, patient life, and God has wonderfully honored him. We are told there is a scientific way of breaking balky horses. Thank God he has a way of keeping you sweet when they do balk. You may learn the scientific way of breaking horses, but it might fail and not work the same on all horses, but thank God, His divine Spirit of patience works the same on all people and what it has done for Bud Robinson it will do for you and I. We may not all have the same duties to perform, but praise God, we can all have the same divine patience which will help us perform our duties and keep sweet. There is only one place where you can get this sweetness—it comes from God. There is only one way of keeping it, and that is by doing His will. There is only one way to make it effective, and that is to live it in our everyday life. If the clothesline breaks and al-



lows the clean clothes to fall in the dirt, we can praise God, not because the line broke and the clothes got dirty, but because He keeps you sweet when it does happen. We can praise Him when the house burns down, not because our dear old home lies in ashes, but because He keeps us sweet when it does burn down. We can praise Him when the children are cross and things do not go right, not because the children are cross and things do not go right, but because He keeps us sweet when it does happen. We can praise Him when the train is four hours late and we miss our connection, not because the train is late and we miss our connection, but because He keeps us sweet, on time, late, or no connection. We might go on and take up every honorable occupation in life and show how God can keep us sweet while in our place of duty, but we have only thrown out a few hints, for we are confident you can make your own application.

But there is a secret to this thing of keeping sweet and that is the thing we want you to get. It is useless to tell a man out in the cold to keep warm when he hasn't enough clothes on to keep him comfortable. It is wasting time to map out a hard day's work for a man when he hasn't strength enough to feed himself. It is useless to ask your wife to pass the sugar bowl when you know there is no sugar in it. You will find it impossible to keep sweet within or without unless God has filled your "sugar bowl" with divine

sweetness—the grace of patience. “Ask and it shall be given you, seek and you will find, knock and it shall be opened unto you, for everyone that asketh receiveth and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” This divine grace of patience is worth asking for. It is worth having; it is worth living. Happy the man or woman, boy or girl, who by faith in Jesus Christ possesses it. They will be a blessing to any people of any community. They may not have a nice form or a pretty face, but they will have a sweetness of character that will outshine all the pomp, pride and glory, of this world. When you compliment them they will not be puffed up. On the other hand, if you falsely accuse them they won't fly to pieces. They have learned how to back off and hide behind the cross of Jesus Christ and get a fresh supply in the hour of need. Their hope is “built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.” They “dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.”

Dear reader, our heavenly Father wants to impart this divine grace to every child in His kingdom, for when we get it we will be like our Lord who, when He was reviled, He reviled not again. When He was falsely accused He took it all patiently, for He was meek and lowly in heart. Thank God divine patience will make us meek and lowly in heart and give us the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### WHY JESUS CAME.

Zechariah tells us in the ninth chapter and ninth verse, "Rejoice greatly, oh daughters of Zion; shout oh daughters of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just and having salvation."

Again in Malachi, third chapter and first verse, we read, "Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts."

In Luke, second chapter, beginning with eighth verse, we read, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field; keeping watch over their flock by night and, lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the Angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord,' and suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host, prais-

ing God and saying, glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

In John 1:11 we are told, "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not." In the twelfth verse we notice, "But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

We cannot help but notice as well as feel, as each Christmas time rolls around, how many hearts are made glad, and how many lives are cheered by a little gift and a kind word from a friend, a loved one and oftentimes a stranger. And how tender in heart it makes us, to look in the faces of some of God's poor, especially the little folks, as some gift given them in the name of the Master is received by them and held tight, and the face fairly beams with joy and satisfaction. And then again we look at the multiplied millions of gifts as they are scattered here and there throughout the world. What a power it ought to be and will be when given in the right way to point us to Jesus Christ the Savior of the world, and remind us of the real object of His first coming. For His first coming was to give Himself a ransom for many and deliver us from sin and present unto us an everlasting gift even eternal life." John tells us that "He that hath the Son of God hath life." So while we are rejoicing over His birth and scattering our gifts over land and sea, let us be careful to remember the real object of



His coming and by faith apply His salvation to our hearts. For by so doing we will please the Father, glorify Jesus and honor the Holy Ghost. As long as sin reigns in the heart there will be trouble and unrest.

He came that we might have peace, the kind that passeth understanding and has no end. He came that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. He came that we might have grace, the kind that will help us in every time of need, and abound unto every good work. He came that we might have patience, the kind that waits for the salvation of our God and never murmurs. He came that we might have victory, the kind that presses heavenward and overcometh the world. He came that we might have humility, the kind that vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. He came that we might have love, the kind that loves God with all the heart, mind and soul, and worketh His neighbor no evil. He came that we might have faith, the kind that subdues kingdoms and takes God at His word. He came that we might have salvation, the kind that frees from sin and saves to the uttermost. He came that we might have righteousness, the kind that makes us right in heart and gives us a conscience void of offence, both toward God and man. He came that we might have wisdom, the kind that comes from above, "is first peaceable, pure and gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and

good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." He came that we might have sanctification, the kind that purifies the soul and fills it with perfect love. He came that we might have redemption, the kind that redeems us from sin and makes us a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He came that we might have power, the kind that sets us going in the work of the Lord and keeps us from fainting when the work is hard. He came that we might have assurance, the kind that makes us know we are right with God. He came that we might have joy, the kind that undergirds every sorrow, overwhelms every grief. He came that we might have rest, the kind that still satisfies the soul, when the body is tired and worn out. Yes, He came to save us from our lost condition and fit us for our eternal destiny. So to this end we feel impressed to write you my dear reader, and let Jesus do for you what He came to do, and be in you what He came to be, and work out in all of our hearts His great salvation, and at last bring us and introduce us to a world without end, where sin and sorrow and death are no more, but where righteousness and peace and joy will never cease.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH.

#### EPISTLE JUDE 3.

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3.

In this passage of Scripture, the beloved Jude, inspired by the Holy Ghost, desires to stir up our pure minds by way of remembrance, that now having repented of our sins, and found peace in Jesus Christ, we are not to sit around with folded arms, expecting to go to Heaven on flowery beds of ease; but, we are to bear in mind, and that continually, that Satan, the father of liars, the very source of iniquity, is going up and down this world, running to and fro, seeking everywhere to destroy the works of God in the hearts of men, and drag precious souls into an endless hell. And then in order to work out our own salvation and lead others to the foot of the cross and point them to the “Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world,” and at last hear the father say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Jude wishes to impress upon our minds if we expect

to be partakers of His glory to come, we must also be partakers of His sufferings here and now. In other words, having sworn allegiance to the despised Nazarene, we must cut loose from this world with all its pomp and glory, "laying aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, running with patience the race that is set before us," and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, "who for the joy that was set before him, "endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down on the right hand of the throne of God."

In John's gospel, chapter 12:10-11, we notice Satan is on the lookout and very anxious to stop the mouth of those who witness to the power of Jesus to save as well as resurrect. And on many occasions and in different ages has slain multitudes of men, women and children, who acknowledged Jesus Christ as their Lord, and who rather than go back to a life of sin, died a martyr's death. But in the end received a crown of life that fadeth not away. Thanks be to God for a salvation that doesn't end at the graveyard, but transfers the soul from a bleeding, torn and tortured body into the very paradise of God. "There shall be no night there and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light and they shall reign forever and forever."

Again in Rev., chap. 2:8-9-10 verses, we hear our Lord saying, "Unto the beloved John and



unto the angel of the church in Smyrna, write these things, sayeth the first and the last, which was dead and is alive. I know thy works, and tribulation and poverty, but thou art rich, and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer. Behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison that ye may be tried, and ye shall have tribulation ten days. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

Then again the Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy, said that "all who will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution;" but he goes a little further and states that "godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come; having therefore food and raiment, let us be content therewith, for they that will be rich, fall into divers temptations and into a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which war against the soul and drown men in destruction and perdition, for the love of money is the root of all evil. While some have coveted after, have erred from the truth and pierced themselves through with many sorrows, but thou, man of God, flee from these things, follow after righteousness, love, peace, meekness, fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life whereunto thou hast been called and professed a good profession before many witnesses."

A faithful witness to my mind would be one who not only thanks the Father for all material blessings, but willing to glorify God by telling of any and all works of grace that have been wrought in his soul through the shed blood of the Son of God.

We do not remember of any church people persecuting us when we told of our conversion, but persecutions not intentionally sought for have come our way when a few years later the Lord sanctified our believing heart and filled it with the pure love of God. We have often stole away to be alone with our Lord, and in trying moments poured out our soul unto Him, for them who understood us not, that they too might consecrate their all to God, and receive the same comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Beloved, let us examine ourselves lest there be any root of bitterness springing up in our hearts causing us to think, say and do things that are sinful. But rather by the grace of God, "Let us lay aside all malice and all guile, and hypocrisies and envies, and all evil speaking, and as new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby;" and let us not forget that "by one offering hath He perfected forever them that are sanctified." Whereof, the Holy Ghost is a witness unto us," and thank God, He will be a witness unto you if you will come and enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, into a new

and living way, which He hath consecrated for you. Reader do it now.

We notice the Apostle Peter, in writing to the Church, said, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice in as much as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering, that when His glory shall appear, ye may be glad with exceeding joy. Wherefore, let them who suffer according to the will of God, commit themselves unto Him in well doing, as unto a faithful creator, and when the chief shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of life which fadeth not away."

And the Prophet Malachi tells us that "they that fear the Lord spake oft one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard, and a book of remembrance was written for Him and for them that feared the Lord, and thought upon His name;" "And they shall be mine," sayeth the Lord, "In that day when I make up my jewels, and I will spare them as a man spareth his son that serveth him."

The Prophet Isaiah, in his vision of the sufferings of Jesus Christ said, "Why art thou red in thine apparel?" And Jesus answered back, "I have trodden the winepress alone, and of the people, there was none with me." And Isaiah said, "And I looked and there was none to help and I wondered there was none to uphold." Je-

sus said, "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. I hid not my face from shame and spitting. Therefore the Lord God will help me. Therefore have I set my face like a flint, for I know that I shall not be ashamed." Here we have a pen picture of the sufferings of Jesus Christ unto death. A prophetic view accomplished and fulfilled on the day of His crucifixion, when He said, "It is finished."

Brother, sister, friend! If the Father for Jesus' sake, has forgiven your sins, tell it. If He has sanctified your heart and filled it with divine love, tell it. And since He has promised to preserve you blameless, spirit, soul and body, until He comes again, let us tell it, for in so doing it will please the Father, honor the Son and give the Holy Ghost a chance to work through us to the saving of some sin-sick soul. But some will ask the question, "What is the faith which was once delivered unto the saints?" Why, surely it means to preach and teach that we are to love God with all our heart and with all the soul, and with all the mind, and with all the strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. "For on these," said Jesus, "hang all the law and the prophets." The faith which was once delivered unto the saints, means that, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It means that we are to preach and to



teach that "Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that He might present it unto Himself a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish." It means to preach and to teach that "the grace of God that bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and of our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself, a peculiar people zealous of good works." It means to teach and to preach that "God is long suffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and be saved." It means to teach and to preach that if any man sin, we are not to get discouraged and keep on backsliding, getting farther away from God and heaven and happiness, but we are to repent of our wrong doing. For Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, and, "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It means to preach and to teach that while God is long suffering, yet "His Spirit will not always strive with man," for, "The day of the Lord will come as a

thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise. The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that all these things shall come to pass, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness? Looking for and hastening unto the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, the elements shall melt with fervent heat, nevertheless we, according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace without spot and blameless." The faith which was once delivered unto the saints means, to "pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit, despise not prophesyings, prove all things, hold fast that which is good, abstain from all appearance of evil, and the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Some people have been wonderfully blessed and greatly stirred through the incoming of the Holy Spirit, and for a while they have run well. Their future seemed bright and in fact, they had everything in their favor to live and continue in

the way of life, but alas, through disobedience or carelessness, sin crept into the heart and to-day they are down and out away from God, even speaking against and denying the Son of God who still loves them and calls them back to the Father's house.

Beloved, if any of us have drifted away from God and lost His love out of our hearts and even spoken against the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, let us see to it at once, that we make all necessary restitution and with a truly repentant spirit come to God and ask Him to forgive us and once more make us entirely His. Let us determine by the grace of God that from henceforth we will live for Him who died for us. How happy then our lives will be.

Again the faith which was once delivered to the saints, means to "work while it is day, for the night cometh," says Jesus, "when no man can work." Hence, "Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Strengthen ye the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees, Say to them who are of a fearful heart, "Fear not, behold your God cometh with vengeance, even God with a recompense. He will come and save you." Therefore, let us who want to follow Him take up our cross daily, doing only those things that are pleasing in His sight, confessing Him before men in word, deed and act. Letting Him shine through us to the end

that He may be able to bless some poor struggling soul and lead it to Himself, the fountain of life and everlasting peace. Again the faith which was once delivered to the saints means to "follow peace with all men and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." There are a great many things in this world which are good in themselves and might do no harm to possess, but I don't need them to carry me to Heaven. But one thing I want and one thing I need is a heart cleansed from sin and filled with the pure love of God. I don't have to be rich in this world's goods, but I must have a holy heart. I don't need much ability, but I must have a holy heart. I don't have to be popular, but I must have a holy heart. I don't have to be good looking, but I must have a holy heart. I don't have to be conversant with politics, or even understand higher criticism, but I must have a holy heart. I don't have to belong to the official board, or sing in the choir, or be able to speak, testify or pray like others, but I must have a holy heart. How simple then the way, and how tenderly God is calling us, for "as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."

I remember when I was a boy of twelve, I got very angry and did and said things one morning which caused me to feel very badly and after it was over, I was so sorry I had acted that way. I



went to my father and asked him to forgive me. And what did he do? Why, he was just waiting and anxious to have me come and he forgave me, and the Scriptures say, "If we confess our sins, He—the Lord—is faithful and just to forgive us." And if a true Christian father and mother will remove everything from the home life that might cause the children any harm, how much more will our Heavenly Father remove from our hearts the sin that doth so easily beset us and fill it with His Holy Spirit.

Let us look at this matter seriously as though we were on our death bed ready to be ushered into the presence of God. We will want it then. Let's get it now. Whatever may be the shortcomings of others, even that of the writer, remember it is God's will that you should have it. Jesus Christ died that I might get it and the Holy Ghost is here now to lead us into it. Even so, Amen!

In conclusion, whatever the cost, or whatever the trial, or whatever the test, or how rugged and hard the path, let us be true to God and bear in mind, He knows the way and will guide us safely to the end. When Christopher Columbus and his associates set sail in hope of discovering a new continent, and after they had spent days and nights with no land in sight, struggling and toiling day after day and night after night, tired in body, weary in mind and homesick in heart, they

turned to Columbus and begged him to give up and set sail home from whence they came. But Columbus with faith in his heart, and unwilling to turn back, cried out, "Sail on, sail on," and they sailed on with still no land in sight. And they begged him again to give it up and turn back, but Columbus cried out, "Sail on, sail on!" and at last they became desperate and threatened to go into mutiny and make him a prisoner. But Christopher Columbus cried out, "Sail on, sail on," until finally the hills and valleys of a new country burst in on their vision. That was a happy day, but Christopher Columbus had a hard struggle in getting through.

Friends, we will encounter many difficulties in our voyage from earth to heaven, rough days and hard nights will come our way. But "Sail on, sail on." Some will say in the hour of despondency, "Turn back and give up the struggle," but brother, "Sail on, sail on." Remember the Captain of our ship is Jesus Christ, and some day the Heavenly Jerusalem will burst in on our sight and what a happy time that will be.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

## CHAPTER XV.

### CORNER STONES.

But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption." 1 Cor. 1:30.

In this verse of Scripture we find four great corner stones of divine grace, all of which are receivable by faith in Jesus Christ, He being the chief corner stone, and the gateway that leads to wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. And I have thought that if I had these four great corner stones in my "soul-house" I would have a foundation upon which to build my superstructure that would be able to withstand any and all storms, floods, and earthquakes of life. And why? Because it is a foundation of God not made with hands eternal in the heavens, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone and master builder.

We are taught in God's word that the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God, for it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and will bring to naught the understanding of the prudent." 1 Cor. 1:19. Solomon says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; if thou seekest her as silver and searcheth for her as for hid treasures, then shalt thou understand

the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." We were once appointed to care for and audit some accounts. We made a mistake somewhere and the accounts would not balance. We added and subtracted; figured and counted; in other words we became desperately in earnest and firmly decided we would not give up until we found the error. Now, what God wants us to do is to get desperately in earnest about our soul's salvation. Figure the cost of a lost soul; lay aside our wisdom of foolishness—which is sin—and by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ have implanted in our "soul house" the wisdom that cometh from above, which is first pure, then peaceable and gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." This is the kind of wisdom God gives. It is the kind that "vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, thinketh no evil, is not easily provoked, rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Yes, it takes away pride, strut and all such like and makes us humble in heart and patient in life. But the trouble is we tried to understand it before we got it, when the fact is, we didn't understand it until we did get it, and we are to understand it better by and by. Hence the wisdom of God will lead a penitent, sinsick soul into the experience of regener-



ation, and not until then is he entitled to be filled with the wisdom that cometh from above, which means full salvation. Paul in writing to Timothy, said, "As a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which **are** able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The second great corner stone is righteousness and this righteousness coupled with divine wisdom, will bring about an immediate and radical change from wrongness to rightness, making things right with God and God making us right. For the righteousness of God is more than man's moral right living. Remember Jesus said to some folks, "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of God." And we are divinely informed in God's word that His kingdom is not meat and drink, such as the world runs after, but is "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." If the Pharisee while praying in the temple had been in possession of divine righteousness, He would not have said, "I thank thee, Lord, that I am not as other men are, extortionist (and perhaps bootleggers and cigarette fiends), no not even like that publican sinner over there beating his breast, and then you know Lord I am paying you well and I fast often. I tell you Lord, I want you to take notice that I do things." No, such would not have been his prayer, but it would have been of a different character

coming from a humble heart, exalting God and helping the poor publican pray through and rejoicing with him in finding peace and pardon to his troubled soul.

Again, this great corner stone placed in your "soul house" by the master builder Jesus, will set you and me to work to make things right with our fellow man as near and as fast as we can. We will square up old debts, some we may never be able to pay, death and other circumstances may prohibit our doing all we would desire along this line, but since we have gotten right with God, it is only natural with us now to desire to be right with our fellow man and from now on as we get more light we will not yield ourselves unto sin but rather yield our members unto God and righteousness. It will not be a question so much of how much money I can make, but will it be right for me as a Christian to do this, that, or the other. And if we will just take time to lay the matter before the Lord, He will show us the way and supply the grace to do the right thing. Would it be right for me to sell a balky, vicious horse and not fully explain to the buyer that the horse in question has some bad or treacherous habit? Who would be guilty should the horse kick to death or runaway and hurt some one who knew nothing of his bad habits? Would it be right for me as a business man to link myself with a business that deceives and misrepresents in or-

der to get profit? Would it be right for me to reprove and whip my child for using tobacco and at the same time use it myself? Would it be right for me to spend my money with the devil's crowd, when from all quarters of the earth people are calling for help to push the kingdom of righteousness? Would it be right for me to invest my money in a place of business that desecrates the holy Sabbath? Would it be right for me to see a person in hunger or distress and refuse to help them? Would it be right for me to turn my back and refuse to speak to some friend, neighbor or loved one because they said or did something I couldn't approve? Is it right for me to do a thing that will mar the true happiness of others, bring leanness to my own soul and bitter remorse in the end? In short, is it right for me to harbor or let any sin remain in my heart since Jesus shed His precious blood to cleanse it out? And since Jesus came and suffered to save us from our sins, let us in all things, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," get rid of sin, and by His grace live a life of righteousness.

The third great corner stone in the text is sanctification. Now the term sanctify or sanctification has a double meaning. Its primary meaning is to set apart to a divine or holy use, such as we read in the Old Testament where certain vessels in the sanctuary were set apart to be

used in the temple services. But the spiritual and more blessed meaning to me is where it is used in meaning the purification of our spirits, or in other words the cleansing of our hearts from all sin, which means destruction of the "old man" or carnal nature, and we become partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption in the world through lust. 2nd Peter 1:3, 4. In 1st Peter 1:2, we read, "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit," and Peter referring to the sanctification of Cornelius and his people, tells us in Acts 15:9, "Their hearts were purified by faith." Paul tells us in 1st Thess. 4:3, "This is the will of God even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." In the same epistle, 5:23, he writes, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." And if you have any doubt that you are not included and that God is not calling you, read the next verse: "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it." In John 3:16, we read that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." In Eph. 25:26-27, we read that "Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of



water by the word, that He might present it unto Himself a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be 'holy and without blemish." Again when the beloved Jude in writing his epistle, said, "Jude the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called, mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied." In John seventeenth chapter, Jesus uses the word "sanctify" in its double meaning. He said, "I sanctify myself," that is setting Himself apart as an offering for sin that His disciples and whosoever should hear and believe might have the spiritual side of it, sanctified wholly and preserved blameless, spirit, soul and body, until Jesus comes again. And as Evangelist Will H. Huff has said, "This sanctification includes about all there is of us." This beautiful term sanctification has met with bitter opposition, not as a rule by folks outside of the Church but from people in the Church. When Jesus came to this world He did not meet with so much opposition from the outside. It is true they did not understand Him, but it says, "He came unto His own and His own received Him not." Some today oppose sanctification because they do not understand its meaning; some because their pastors do not preach it and perhaps no one in the congregation professes it; some because they have been taught that you can't

get it until you die; some because some one who claimed to have it did not live it, and yet others simply because somebody else has opposed it. But brother, sister, friend! Let us be honest for once and all time, to come and get at the root of all this opposition and acknowledge the fact that there is a sin principle, a carnal mind, a something within my unsanctified heart that fights and opposes and dodges this beautiful experience of sanctification receivable by faith and consecration through the blood of Jesus Christ, whereby God the Father through the power of the Holy Ghost purifies the heart from all sin and fills it with perfect love. But before you get this experience, you will have to lay aside your opposition, cease your fighting, quit your dodging, and leave behind your doubtings. We need not fear God will not force this experience upon us or drive us into it. But I am sure He will demand it, when we come to meet Him at the great white throne. Oh! how can I as a Christian, afford to oppose God's will, for, "This is the will of God even my sanctification." How can I any longer treat this matter carelessly, since it cost Jesus His life that I should have it, and what excuse or reason can I offer for trifling with the Holy Ghost, since He so sweetly and tenderly is calling me now.

Again, when God sanctifies a soul, that does not mean we will not be tempted. No doubt we will be tempted more than ever, but we will have

more light and greater power to resist the tempter. It does not mean we cannot sin, or in other words, are not liable to sin, but there will be given unto us a clearer vision to discern the approach of sin and a closer walk with God that will help us to keep clear of it. Somehow we will receive a blessedness in the soul we never knew before, and a longing to be more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ. And should one of us grieve the Holy Spirit, how quick we know it, and what pain it brings to our well instructed soul, and as a rule what hurrying back to the forgiving and cleansing grace of our Heavenly Father. For just as truly as one can, through disobedience or neglect, lose their justified experience, even so through neglect or disobedience, can we lose our sanctified experience. John Wesley tells us, "It requires a greater degree of watchfulness to retain the perfect love of God than it does to remain in our justified experience." His statement looks reasonable, for Satan delights to tempt, persecute and misrepresent. Yes, to use every means possible to discourage those who are entirely the Lord's. And let those be careful who have named the name of Christ and who have not entered in the experience of entire sanctification. Yea, be watchful lest Satan so blind them that somehow they will not care to go where real definite and genuine holiness is preached, sung and taught, for Satan will make sanctifica-

tion look impossible here in this present life. He delights to call it fanaticism and to misrepresent it in every possible way. He will sneer at the folks who have it and call them the "goody-goody people"; "the Church splitters"; "the folks that think they cannot sin"; and many other similar and false names. He will use any little imperfection a sanctified soul may possess and tell it all over the neighborhood. He will pick up anything and everything that looks unlovely and charge it to sanctification. He desires to heap on and cover up the beautiful meaning and blessing of sanctification, so you will never see it and make it look so repulsive to you that you will not want it. But thanks be to God! He wills it; He desires that you and I shall have it now. If we haven't got it, let us get it at once. If we had it once and have lost it, let us come to Jesus and get it back again. If we never had any desire for it and do not feel our need of it, let me say to you in all kindness, it will be time well spent to examine your heart carefully. Be much in prayer and meditate upon the word of God. It will pay you to neglect some minor duties if necessary, in order to do these things. And remember, Jesus said, "Every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." And He further states, "If ye ask anything according to my will I will do it." Oh, how sweet



then to know in our own hearts that "This is the will of God even your sanctification."

Taking the fourth and final step into the text we note that Jesus has become our redemption. He sheds His blood on Calvary, pays the price for our salvation and cries out, "It is finished," gives up the ghost, commends His spirit to the Father, takes His flight only to return, and thank God! He came back the third day, the resurrected Christ, the hope of glory, walked this old earth for forty days, spoke cheer and peace to aching hearts, told the disciples to tarry at Jerusalem until they received the promise of the Father, and then to go out and preach the glad tidings of a risen Lord—a full salvation. "And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," and when He had finished while they beheld, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And today He sits at the right hand of the Father where He does intercede for every sin-sick soul, and breaks the bread of life to every hungry heart. And how careful we must be not to teach anything less than a blood redemption. For wherein the blood of bulls and goats was unable to destroy sin, the blood of Jesus was and is, when applied by faith, able to cure and make the foulest clean. And how blessed such words of the song, "The blood has never lost its power; no never, no never." Again, "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

And then again, "The blood, the blood, is all my plea. Hallelujah, it cleanseth me!" And still again:

"There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.  
The dying thief rejoiced to see,  
That fountain in his day,  
And there may I, though vile as he,  
Wash all my sins away."

And what shall we say to all this heavenly song: Namely, this, my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name. Jesus Himself said in John 6:56, "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in Him."

Again, when alone with His disciples He took bread and when He had given thanks, He brake it and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me." In like manner He took the cup and when He had supped, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me." For just as truly as we by faith do eat of the broken body of our Lord and in like manner by faith drink of His shed blood, we receive from Him life and food for the spiritual

man, and a blessed consciousness of pleasing the Father, making glad the heart of Jesus the Son and honoring the Holy Ghost. Again, the word "redemption" carries with it a two-fold blessing in that we are redeemed from sin and saved to sin no more. While it is an awful thing to live in sin and be bound down and a subject of Satan, yet what hope and glorious news to hear that Jesus paid the price to liberate us from the devil and His power and can set us free. For "If Christ shall make you free, then are ye free indeed." And what a sweet and comforting thought to know I do not need to go back and serve the devil any more, but steadily and faithfully keep my eyes on Jesus my Redeemer, and where He leads me I will follow, and where He sends me I will go. But some one will say, supposing I slip and get down again, become discouraged, lose out, etc.? All we can say is that if we obey Satan and fall, remember he was planning our fall, but God is always planning for us to stand true. And remember, He is greater than the devil, and if we will confess our wrongs and get our eyes off of self and Satan, and by faith look to Jesus, He will lift us up and set us free again, and restore to us the joy of His salvation.

When we think of the great price that Jesus paid for our redemption, and the great grace He has and does supply to every earnest soul, how careful and diligent we ought to be in searching

the Holy Scriptures which is to be our guide unto all truth, and since the Father is more willing to give us the Holy Spirit than parents are to give their children bread, what doth hinder me from being His entirely now and forever more, being led on by His word and the Holy Ghost into all spiritual understanding.

Again, Peter tells us in the 1st Epistle, 2:18, "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ as a lamb without spot and without blemish." Paul takes up the same theme in writing to Titus when he said, "Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Hence, Jesus has become our redemption, to release us from sin, make us entirely His, so that from henceforth the devil loses all claim and title to either spirit, soul or body. For these three have been bought with a price and the price was so great and the transaction so complete that it includes every sinner, no matter how low, how mean, how far away from God. The question is, will you come? "And the Spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.



## CHAPTER XVI.

### LEADERSHIP.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” 2nd Timothy 4:1-6.

In reading the above Scripture, we are brought face to face, not only with the responsibility of one, called as a leader, but correspondingly so with those who have the privilege to hear. While God is calling men to preach the Word with power and not to be afraid of faces; He is also calling men and women of the rank and file of the Church to be careful what they hear, and how they hear: “For if the Word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience receiv-

ed a just recompense of reward, "how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation."

When the crumbling walls of the Philippian jail struck terror to the keeper's soul, and thinking he would be called to account for any fleeing prisoners, he was about to take his own life. Then Paul and Silas, two men filled with the Holy Ghost, spoke peace to his troubled mind, saying, "Do thyself no harm," and they speaking and he hearing, cried out, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" and they answered back, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house." It is a fact that today we have many faithful men and women who are true to God and serving Him, we believe, with all sincerity. In this article we are not saying that they all see things just alike, but we do insist there is no fight in their hearts against the will of God but are reaching and pressing forward to be like our Lord Jesus and saying with emphasis, "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." David testified and said, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters; He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." The prophet Habakkuk wrote, "Although the fig tree shall not blos-

som, neither shall fruit be on the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, the fields shall yield no meat, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation." Solomon, in speaking of the leadings and blessings of God, said, "I sat under his shade with great delight and his fruit was sweet to my taste; he brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love." The Apostle John in his writings wrote: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." In another place he wrote, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." Again Jesus said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me him will my Father honor."

In Isaiah 55:4, he refers to the coming leadership of Jesus and says, "Behold, I have given Him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people." I have often thought of the many different leaders in church life, every one of them claiming to be right and yet oftentimes such a marked difference in teaching and explain-

ing of the Scriptures. Some placing special emphasis on some Bible truth, one not essential to salvation and then again perhaps cover up or fail to see some great Bible truth which one must see and teach in order to keep on the main line leading to salvation and eternal happiness. I believe the devil is quite busy trying to get us side-tracked on some non-essential line, and he doesn't care how many "round trips" we make, or how often we double our little "spur track," just so we keep off the main line. When God's heavy train of repentance, faith and full salvation comes rolling down the main track, let us at least get aboard and hang on until we can get a good seat, or in other words, a better understanding in divine things and what the will of the Lord is concerning us. Then again I have thought what a blessing might come to this world if leaders of all denominations and religious beliefs would meet at some appointed place and agree to spend at least three hours in earnest prayer before the God of heaven and while the leaders were thus in prayer the balance of Christendom would as far as possible, pray God to give His Holy Spirit to help the brethren in convention to see all things essential to salvation, just alike. I am sure if a convention of this kind would take place a great blessing would sweep over this world and perhaps we wouldn't have a half dozen churches in a little village with only a few in each church, but



we could have ministers enough and members enough to pay the pastors and evangelists what is due them. For the laborer is worthy of his hire, and surely God's ministers ought not be compelled to go around begging, since the membership has plenty and a great many live in palatial homes. But turning back to some Bible truths. For instance, there is the doctrine of water baptism. Now brother you can get to that place where you can get side-tracked on water baptism and make it look so big to you that you can't see much else. Surely when Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," He had reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Remember Paul said in one place, "I thank God I baptized none of you save Gaius and the house of Stephanas, lest some of you should say I baptized in my own name, for God sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel." And in Eph. 4:5 he wrote, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." And then again remember the words of John the Baptist where he said, "I indeed baptize with water, but one followeth me who shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire." So dear reader don't think we are making light of water baptism or are asking you to lay aside the ordinance of such, but let us be sure we seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit which is the essential baptism unto eternal life. Again we take up the observance of the Sabbath day and we turn to the

Ten Commandments where it reads, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Now we believe that every true Christian will keep the Sabbath day holy. Yes, he will take pains to watch himself lest he do the things that might displease God. Nevertheless, much controversy has arisen as to which day is the right day, Saturday or Sunday. And here is where we might get side-tracked, by either contending for Sunday or Saturday as the case might be. We might go so far in our contending for the day and pound our brother over the back who may not see it just as we do, until the real Sabbath spirit of soul rest and communion with God has left us; of course we still have the day, but the essential part is the spirit.

Some years ago a good Christian lady told me that God seemed to bless her and a quiet reverent spirit would steal over her soul in keeping Saturday for the Sabbath. I answered her, "Why sister, that same spirit of rest and sweet communion sweeps over my soul in keeping Sunday for the Sabbath." She looked puzzled and said, "How can these things be?" While we might suggest several reasons, why these things do exist, yet one that satisfies me is that "as thy faith, so be it unto you." God honors the honest heart, and we must keep the day as unto the Lord. Then again all the world could not keep the same day at the same time. For when it is Saturday in one part of the earth, it is Friday in another part, and when we

would have Saturday here it would be Sunday in China. So let us be sure we have the Sabbath spirit even though we may worship on different days and be careful not to judge one another in the thing wherein God seems to put no difference, but is pleased to bless us both.

Again another great Bible truth is divine healing and I would be surprised as well as shocked to hear a Christian say they did not believe in this great Bible doctrine. For surely Jesus is just as able to heal today as He was when He trod the Judean hills. "He is the same yesterday, today and forever," and every now and then we hear of some one praising God for healing, and according to my observation they usually were obstinate cases of long standing that were healed. But I have also observed that God does not heal all people of their bodily diseases even though they might seek Him and plead with Him earnestly. Paul seemed to have prayed three times to be healed but for some reason we know not, it was not God's will. Our heavenly Father seems pleased to heal some of His children's diseases. Then again He wills to let others suffer, not that He might have pleasure in our pain, but that after we have suffered awhile He may perfect us in suffering. That is, draw us closer to Himself and work in us and through us His sweet presence. And tell me if you can how many people have been drawn to a better life, yea, have

been touched by divine grace because God allowed one of His children to suffer even unto death. But while they were suffering they didn't scold; they found no fault; they seemed to say "even so, Father, if this be Thy will, it must be alright. Thy will be done." We once roomed with some good people who believed in divine bodily healing for all people. I asked for some scripture that might clear up my mind on the matter and was directed to the gospel of Mark 1:14. "And there came a leper to Him beseeching Him and saying unto Him, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean. And Jesus moved with compassion, put forth His hand and touched him and saith unto him, "I will. Be thou clean." I did not argue with my friends in this, but failed to see how Jesus intended to teach by cleansing this poor leper, that He intended to heal all sick people of their physical ailments. But turning to James 5:14, "Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Now here is one of the strong scriptures on divine healing and as you will notice is addressed to the church or in other words to Christians. And many folks since this was written even up to the present time have taken this comforting



scripture, have called for the elders of the church, have been anointed with oil, prayed through and were healed. Now in the first line of the 14th verse it says, "Is any sick among you." Somehow this touches me so forcibly, is any sick among you. I wonder are we honoring God when we lay aside this teaching? Would to God our ministry would preach it more. God would not only heal more people, but it would lead us to a closer walk with God. I think it was John Wesley who said the reason more people did not receive divine healing was because "we as churches grow worldly and lose sight of some of the precious truths of God's word and our privileges as God's children." But referring back to the Scriptures I notice in order to get healed we must have the Prayer of Faith. And that is the thing that clears my mind on divine healing. Now if we live close to our Lord and God wills to heal us, He will also give us the prayer of faith which will cause us to pray in the Holy Ghost and sure enough we are healed. But on the other hand if it is His will that we suffer, I firmly believe He will withhold the faith that leads to our healing, and herein is my heart satisfied on divine healing. We have known of folks getting side-tracked on this precious Bible truth. We have heard them denounce physicians as well as drug stores and make light of the ministry and the way they carried on was enough to disgust people and drive them away from salva-

tion and divine healing. Usually these people come and go under the name of holiness folks. No wonder some people avoid attending genuine holiness meetings especially when they see and hear the counterfeit and have a very poor understanding of the genuine. Let us be sure of one thing, that we come to Jesus and get a well soul, for a well soul in a sick body can get to heaven, but a sick soul in a healthy body is doomed to eternal despair.

Another great Bible truth is the second coming of our Lord. This is a subject I love to study, and I have thought more than once that I would like to see Him, especially when disappointment and trials have come my way and the soul fairly sickens because of the pressure brought to bear over which we may have no control. As a true wife looks for her husband, and as a dutiful child looks with eagerness for the return of papa or mama, or as the bride looks for her lover, so the Christian oftentimes longs for his Lord. If this be true, should the thought of the second coming of our Lord make us feel uneasy or disturb our minds, since it was Jesus who said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye

may be also." What comfort to the Christian these words of Jesus! How they still the soul and quiet the troubled heart, and what sweet peace and assurance sweep over us as we meditate on the sweet bye and bye when He will fulfill His promise.

Hence the second coming of our Lord ought to be preached constantly. We do not mean by this that every time we meet the subject must be given prominence, or even mentioned, but sermons with conviction and power must be delivered from time to time, not as an essential to salvation but as a means of stirring us up and leading us to a better life. We may criticise the Jews for killing the man of Galilee but the question comes home, "What have I done to make sure my eternal happiness? Have I done the first works which are necessary to meet Him in peace when He comes?" And this leads to the first step which must be given prominence in all our teaching and preaching, viz: repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Surely repentance means a godly sorrow for sins committed, coming to God in faith believing, asking Him to forgive us. And when we thus come confessing all and making everything right as near as we can with our fellowman whom we may have wronged, God will pardon our transgressions and give us the witness of the Holy Spirit of our acceptance with Himself. When this takes place we have no trouble in

knowing we are a child of God. No wonder we love to sing, "Oh, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away." Hence repentance, restitution, faith in the Son of God as the Savior of the world and the witness of the Holy Spirit to the Father's pardoning grace in our hearts, are essential. Truths that must be preached too and exercised by every one who really gets saved. But some will say, "How about the poor honest heathen who are not privileged to listen to God's word?" I answer, "Don't worry about that, our Heavenly Father will take care of the faithful heathen and will not hold them responsible for light they do not have." But we who know His will are not only responsible for delivering His word to those nearby, but we are commissioned to carry it to the ends of the earth, so that all heathen may know His will and have the privilege of doing it.

Another great Bible doctrine essential to salvation is the New Birth. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Unless a man be born again, he can not enter into the Kingdom of God." Hence the command, "Ye must be born again." A spiritual birth will produce a spiritual man. Peter tells us in his first Epistle, 1:23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever." And in the second chapter, second verse he writes to the new spiritual children in God's kingdom and calls our attention to the fact that "as new



born babes relish and live on the mother's breast even so as new born spiritual babes we are to live on the Word of God," "that ye may grow thereby, if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

Another great Bible truth essential to salvation is heart purity. This doctrine is spoken of and referred to by different terms, but all apparently leading to the one thing, viz. a heart cleansed from all sin, through consecration and faith on the part of the believer and the all-cleansing blood applied on the part of the divine God. There must be a cleansing of our hearts, a definite second work of grace. That great spiritual song writer, Charles Wesley, wrote:

"Breathe, oh breathe thy loving spirit,  
Into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest."

I am sorry that some one changed the fourth line and made it read, "Let us find that promised rest." We like Wesley's way of putting it better.

Again we would mention that obedience to God and walking in the light as He may give it, is necessary for our present fellowship and eternal happiness. Our heavenly Father may call us to do this or that, and happy the Christian that obeys God. Let us remember that God never calls us to do anything in His kingdom but what

He is ready to supply what we lack. We remember of a certain woman speaking in class meeting of being invited to go out in the public street and, with others, help sing and pray and invite people to come to the church where revival services were being conducted. She said when she was asked to go, she shrank back. She did not feel she could do such a thing, but finally consented and as she went God supplied the grace and made it easy for her. My dear friend, when you get an invitation to do some work in the Master's kingdom obey God. You will at the same time give your own soul an opportunity to expand and grow. Yes, you will be walking in the light and the blood of Jesus Christ will keep your heart clean.

Some years ago a company of Salvation Army people were holding a street meeting in one of our western towns and while one of the women was praying a ruffian threw some dirt in her face. However she never flinched, simply wiped the dirt from her mouth and eyes and kept on praying. She was having an audience with God and a little dirt from a ruffian didn't seem to break her connection with heaven. After the street meeting was over awful conviction fell on the dirt thrower and a few days later he gave his heart to Jesus Christ. May God give every one of us as leaders and followers a humble heart and willing mind so He can use us to His glory and for the

salvation of souls. Last thought I would impress upon your minds, is, when we follow Jesus, we can make no mistake. Prosperity or poverty, in heart always the same; a clean heart, a clarified mind, "if we suffer with Him we shall also reign with Him." If we keep His commandments here we are sure of His promises over there. Yes, some day we will close our eyes in death here but open them to eternal life above.

From my early boyhood days I have had a great desire to visit some of the historical places of the Civil War. My father was a Union soldier and told me some things about a soldier's life and the horrors of the battle field. My hope of visiting some of these places was realized a few years ago, and in company with my oldest son we started for the South. Our first place of interest was Chattanooga. Surely God smiled on this part of this universe, when He fashioned the mountains and valleys in and about Chattanooga. On one side are the lofty timber decked mountains, then as you look in another direction, you see Missionary Ridge, and then lying before you, Chickamauga and the beautiful Tennessee. I have been told there was a time when the Indians fought over this beautiful place. Then next the Indian and the white man, and last the Blue and the Gray. The last place we visited in Chattanooga was the National Cemetery. Here lies some fourteen thousand dead soldier boys. Then again as

we tramped over Lookout Mountain and across Missionary Ridge and down Antietam's bloody lane, I thought of some of the great generals, what master minds they had, and how some of them led their armies on to victory willing to suffer with their men. Then as I have thought of the awful suffering of the rank and file away from home, no soft bed to rest the weary body, oftentimes hungry and thirsty, sick and discouraged, homesick and sad, eyes heavy for want of sleep, tramping in the scorching sun and in the bitter cold, and at last shed their blood for their country's cause. Then again, as I viewed their graves in Chattanooga and Antietam, my heart was greatly stirred as I read on government plates the following lines:

The muffled drum, sad roll has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo,  
No more on life's parade shall meet  
That brave and fallen few.

No vision of the morning's strife,  
The warrior's dream alarms,  
No braying horn, no screaming fife  
At dawn, shall call to arms.

No rumor of the foes advance,  
Now sweeps upon the wind,  
No troubled thought at midnight haunts  
Of loved ones left behind.



The neighing troops, the flashing blade,  
The bugle's sterling blast,  
The charge, the dreadful cannonade  
The din and shout are past.

Rest on embalmed and sainted dead,  
Dear as the blood ye gave.  
No impious footsteps here shall tread  
The herbage of your grave.

Your own proud land's heroic soil  
Must be your fitter grave,  
She claims from war his richest spoil  
The ashes of the grave.

On Fame's eternal camping ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards with solemn round  
The bivouac of the dead.

Then as I have thought of the multitudes of men who in other ages were true to their country, fought for righteous principles, gave up their lives, and now lie beneath the sod, I have also thought of another general, one arrayed against sin. St. John wrote, "And I saw in the right hand of Him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the back side, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, or in earth, neither under the earth,

was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." And John looked again, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written that no man knew but he himself: And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in

blood; and his name is called 'The Word of God.'  
And as I left John my mind turned to the poet:

The Son of God goes forth to war,  
A kingly crown to gain;  
His blood-red banner streams afar,  
Who follows in His train?  
Who best can drink his cup of woe,  
Triumphant over pain,  
Who patient bears His cross below,  
He follows in His train.

That martyr first, whose eagle eye,  
Could pierce beyond the grave  
Who saw his Master in the sky;  
And called on Him to save.  
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue,  
In midst of mortal pain,  
He prayed for them that did the wrong,  
Who follows in His train?

A noble band, the chosen few,  
On whom the Spirit came;  
Twelve valiant saints, their hope they knew,  
And mocked the cross and flame.  
They met the tyrant's brandished steel,  
The lion's gory mane;  
They bowed their heads the stroke to feel,  
Who follows in their train?

A noble army, men and boys,  
The matron and the maid,

Around the Savior's throne rejoice,  
In robes of light arrayed ;  
They climbed the steep ascent of heaven,  
Through peril, toil, and pain,  
O God, to us may grace be given,  
To follow in their train.

Yes, when I think of the sufferings, hardships, and bloodshed of our early fathers, what they endured in order to establish righteousness in the earth, how valiantly they fought to protect their wives and little ones from the hands of the oppressor and what awful persecution was theirs as they stood true for the right and earnestly contended for the faith once delivered to the saints, and then as I behold one like unto the Son of God with lacerated hands and bleeding feet His face pale unto death, and yet He prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." I also feel like praying, "Father give me the spirit of Jesus Christ and help me in this twentieth century to stand true as did our fathers, and let me have the spirit of divine love that will keep me and lead me in the right path." For in one sense every one of us are leaders. Someone will follow in our footsteps. Hence, let us be careful how we live lest we forget and the house we belong to will be broken up and the church we love will become dead and lifeless and the community we live in become exceedingly wicked and defiant



until the God of justice and judgment will move upon us and there will be wailing and weeping and bitter remorse. Brother, sister, if you are called to be a leader be faithful, be true to God. If your lot is that of the rank and file, spend much time in prayer and in the reading of His holy Word. Be sure your hands are clean, your heart is pure, and "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Amen.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE SECOND COMING.

The Book of Revelation, 1st chapter, 7th verse.

“Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him, even so, Amen.”

This passage of Scripture teaches us that Jesus is coming again, for just as truly as He came the first time, just so surely will He come the second time. And just as truly as holy men of old moved by the Holy Ghost foretold of His first coming, just so surely have holy men in centuries gone by, been inspired by the Holy Ghost to foretell His second coming. Now I do not know what nearby or remote tomorrow my Lord is coming, but I do know that before He mounted the clouds of Heaven and rode back to glory, He said, “If I go away, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also.” It doesn't make so much difference as to whether our Lord will come in this or some future generation, but it is a serious and all important matter for me to consider, and that is, to make ready and be prepared to meet Him when He does come. Now some people say that the second coming of the Lord has reference to death, that is, when the

spirit and soul have parted from the body and we take the body to the cemetery and cover it with mother-earth. Now they say that is what is meant by His second coming. Again another class of folks say the second coming of our Lord has reference to the Day of Pentecost. When the disciples in obedience to the words of Jesus Christ met in Jerusalem, and as they were gathered with one accord and were praying and supplicating and waiting for the promise of the Father, all of a sudden there was a mighty rushing wind from Heaven and the sound of it filled the whole house and cloven tongues sat upon each one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Now they say this is what is meant by His second coming, but since many died before He came the first time, and many died while He was on earth, and many have died since He went back to the Father, it could not possibly refer to death. And as the prophecy of His second coming was written before He came the first time, and also after He did come, we see how foolish and unscriptural such theories remain. Death is a fact and a reality, and so was the Day of Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost, and so it will be a reality some day when He will come back to judge this world and give every man His just dues. John while on the Isle of Patmos wrote, "The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him and sent and signified it by His

angel unto His servant John, who bore record of the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ and of all things that he saw, blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep thou the things that are written therein for the time is at hand. . . . . John unto the seven churches which are in Asia, grace be unto you and peace from Him which is and which was, and which is to come." So the angel of the Lord tells John in the first chapter of Revelation that Jesus is coming again and John notifies the seven churches to read and keep the word of God, for the time is at hand. For in keeping and doing His will, they would be blessed by Him which is and which was, and which is to come.

Again the apostle Jude takes up His second coming by quoting Enoch the seventh from Adam when he said, "The Lord will come with ten thousand of His saints to execute judgment on all and convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Men may make fun, ridicule and laugh at the thought of His second coming, but I would always rather believe a Holy God than an unholy sinner.

Again the apostle Peter mentions His second coming, for in the second epistle, third chapter, He says, "This second epistle I now write unto you



in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, that ye may be mindful of the words spoken by the holy prophets and of us the apostles of our Lord and Savior, knowing that in the last days shall come scoffers and saying, where is the promise of His coming. For since the Fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning. But this they are willingly ignorant of, that by the word of God the Heavens were of old and the earth out of the water and in the water. But the Heavens and the earth which are kept by the same word reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come."

Again the Apostle James unfolds the same truth. In the fifth chapter, He tells how in the last days men will heap up great riches, robbing the laborer of his rightful wages, even killing the just. No doubt there never was a time when covetousness was more rank than at the present day. It seems that a few men comparatively hold the power in their hands, and no matter how much of God's blessings on earth they are intent on con-

trolling the common blessing of life. Now James doesn't say "use violence," "commit murder," or "go into anarchy," No! but he says "be ye therefore patient brethren unto the coming of the Lord." "Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth with long patience, waiting for it until he receives the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

Again when Paul wrote to Titus, he mentions the second coming of our Lord. For he said, "The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and of our Savior Jesus Christ." When Paul was nearing the end of his earthly career, he looked forward with confidence and said, "The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous Judge will give unto me at that day and not unto me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." And so we are to live a sober, righteous and godly life here and now. The Scriptures say in this present world, that when He shall come, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him

at His coming. While Jesus did not tell us the day nor the hour when He would come, yet He did tell us of some of the conditions and things that would come to pass before and just prior to His second coming. For He said, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be; they were eating and drinking, and given in marriage." They bought, they sold, in fact they lived as though no judgment was pending. But when the ark was completed and the time was ripe, Jehovah shut Noah in the ark, and suddenly an awful destruction befell the sin cursed multitudes, having wilfully refused to repent of their sins and get right with God. Now Jesus said, "As the days of Noah were, so shall it be before His second coming." We have heard some preaching how this world is going to be better until finally all will be saved, but according to my understanding of the Scriptures that time will never come until the saved have been caught up with the Lord in the air and the wicked destroyed with fire and brimstone. For Jesus said, "As it rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah, so shall it be when He comes again. And Paul writing to Timothy 2nd letter, 3rd chapter, says, "In the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of themselves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incon-

continent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." And He adds, "From such turn away." Friends, let us awake and study the Word and be sure that we have something more than just the form of godliness. And let us see to it at once that we have the Holy Ghost dwelling in our hearts and remember the words of our Lord when He said, "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Surely the word of God and the seemingly multitudes of careless and indifferent folks, both in and out of the church ought to startle us and help us to see that we are living in the last days. In the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all this world as a witness to all nations and then shall the end come." He included the preaching of repentance, faith, restitution, heaven, hell, the judgment, forgiveness of sins, sanctification of believers, the resurrection, eternal punishment for the wicked and eternal life for the righteous. We hear a great deal of preaching which is good as far as character building is concerned, but it doesn't seem to bring deep and pungent conviction and people are not startled and brought to their knees, crying out, "What must I do to be saved?" I am anxious that my loved ones, my friends, my ene-



mies, yea all people everywhere shall hear men and women preach of much faith and full of the Holy Ghost, warning them to flee from the wrath to come and turn their backs on a giddy, frivolous and world-loving crowd and pray through until they get a salvation from the skies that makes them ashamed of the world, rather than God, and lovers of real genuine true holiness folks rather than despisers of those that are good and lovers of God's Kingdom and Church, rather than lodges, Sunday base ball and picture shows. Behold He cometh!

Again we take another step into the text and notice it not only says, "He is coming again, but it describes the manner of His coming." For it says, "Behold, He cometh with clouds." If one of our earthly friends were to write us and tell us they were coming on such a train or perhaps in an automobile, or in a buggy or horse back, we would look for them in just the kind of vehicle or manner in which they said they would come. But circumstances might change their plans and they might come in altogether a different way intended and as informed us. But when the Scripture states, "He cometh with clouds," He will come just that way. He will not change, alter or depart from His own word. We do not understand that He will come with the clouds of wind and rain filled with mist, lightning and thunder, but the word says, "He cometh with the clouds of Heav-

en." When Jesus Christ and His holy angels break forth from the everlasting hills of God, with the glory of the Father, the sight will be beyond the imaginations of any human mind. The power and glory of that occasion will be stupendous in its magnitude and will hush into silence every opposer and fighter of God and His people.

Again, He is not only coming with clouds, but Isaiah tells us in the 66th chapter, 15th verse, "Behold the Lord cometh with fire, and with His chariots like a whirlwind. He will render His anger with fury and His rebuke with flames of fire." This will not be like unto a Fourth of July celebration, but will bring into judgment and mete out punishment and desolation to unsaved sinners by a just and longsuffering God. But, friend, while you still have time and opportunity and while God is still holding off, won't you come and give Him your heart, and by His grace, help somebody else to escape the awful destruction of the wicked?

Again, He is not only coming with clouds and with fire, but He is coming clothed in His heavenly dress and surrounded with ten thousand of His saints. In the 7th chapter of Daniel, Daniel wrote, "I saw the ancient of days; the hairs of His head were like pure wool; His garments were white as snow; His throne like the fiery flame; His chariot wheels like the burning fire; a fiery flame came forth from before Him, thousands

ministered unto Him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him, and the judgment was set and the books were opened." Well, He is coming clothed in the white garments of righteousness, and if I expect to minister unto Him, I must secure and wear a heavenly dress: For when He came the first time, He was despised and rejected of men, but when He comes the second time, the ungodly will be rejected by Him and drawn before the judgment seat of Christ. Sinner, you may think you are playing your part well, you may be able to pull the wool over your wife's eyes; ungodly woman, you may think you are fooling your husband; law breaker, you may stand in with some loose officers of the law and commit crime after crime; murderer, embezzler, hypocrite, child destroyer, luke-warm and careless, I warn you. Quit sin! Confess it here and now. I know it is a hard thing to confess, but Jesus will help you, the Holy Ghost will show you what to do. It will be an awful thing to stand before the Son of God with nothing to hide behind. Every secret will then be revealed, for we are informed that God keeps books and every act is recorded, and just as sure as there is a God there will be a judgment day.

Again, we not only notice that He is coming with clouds and with fire in His heavenly dress, and with ten thousand of His saints, but the Scriptures say, "He will come suddenly." Paul

in writing to the 1st Thess. 5:2 said, "Brethren, you know perfectly that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, for when they say peace and safety then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail on a woman with child." And Jesus Himself in Matt. 25, said, "As the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Just before His second coming there may be a universal peace and quietness settle over the nations of the earth. This may run for a number of years and men will say we are living in good times. Surely this is the golden age. The churches will be lukewarm, and as a rule both preachers and people will say, "Where is the promise of His coming?" In fact, His second coming will seem so far off that the churches will grow careless, when suddenly like a thief in the night, as a flash of lightning in a clear sky the Son of God will appear with ten thousand of His saints and there will be time no more. Luke says, "As a snare will it come upon all them that dwell upon the face of the earth."

Again we notice He is not only coming with clouds and fire, clothed in His heavenly dress, coming suddenly, but He is coming in judgment. You may have been smooth enough to step through your city and community and pass as an honest man, when the truth of the matter is, if the people knew, you would be behind the bars and per-



haps serve a term in the penitentiary. But you will have to meet that thing at the judgment. Your secret sins, the date you made with such and such a one, you may be laughing in your sleeves now how well you worked it, but you'll have to meet that thing at the judgment,. Those stocks you sold and those promises you made, when you knew you were lying. But you will have to meet that thing at the judgment, and remember that while it is appointed for men once to die, but after that the judgment.

Again we notice that He is not only coming with clouds and fire clothed in His heavenly dress, coming suddenly and in judgment, but He is coming to separate forever the righteous from the wicked and give every man his just dues. Money, talent, education, influence, gifts of fine oratory or oily speeches won't do you any good then. There will be a pay day when He comes and every man will receive according to what he has done. In Matt. 25th chapter beginning with the 31st verse, "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory; and before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He shall separate them one from another. as a shepnerd divideth his sheep from the goats. And He shall set His sheep on His right hand, the goats on His left, then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, in-

herit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungered and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me"; then shall the righteous answer Him: "When saw we Thee a hungered and fed thee, or thirsty and gave Thee drink; when saw Thee a stranger and took Thee in, or naked and clothed Thee, or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee?" And the King shall answer and say unto them, "Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungered and ye gave me no meat, I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink, I was a stranger and ye took me not in, naked and ye clothed me not, sick and in prison and ye visited me not." Then shall they also answer Him saying, "Lord, when saw we Thee a hungered, or a thirst, or a stranger, or naked or sick, or in prison and did not minister unto Thee?" Then shall He answer them saying, "Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not unto me." And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal."

Again we take another step in the text and

notice it not only tells us that He is coming again and describes the manner of His coming, but it says that every eye shall see Him and they also that pierced Him. When He came the first time multitudes in and about Jerusalem saw Him while He dwelt amongst men, but this was only a few people. When we come to consider that when He comes the second time every eye shall see Him, from Adam down through all ages, for before Him shall all nations of the earth be gathered and every eye shall see Him. The people that do not have family prayers and don't ask the blessing at the table, and don't read their Bibles and keep away from the revival services, and do not like the holiness folks, are the kind who don't like to talk about His second coming now and won't want to see Him when He does come. But the text says, "Every eye shall see Him." People will call on the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of the Lamb, but somehow the mountains and rocks will not fall. They will try to look some other way, even bend their heads downward, but their heads won't bend. They will try and close their eyes, but some supernatural power will come over them and the eyes won't close. They will have to look at Him and they also that pierced Him. Some may hold the idea that that means the Roman soldiers that pierced Him as He hung on the cross. Of course they too will see Him. But every man and wom-

an, boy and girl, who have heard the gospel message and wilfully rejected a blood redemption, and thereby have trodden under foot the blood of Jesus Christ, and have called it an unholy thing, Heb. 10:29, these shall have pierced Him in a spiritual sense, and no wonder the very thought of His coming is unpleasant to them. His actual coming will so terrorize them that they would rather be buried under mountains and rocks than to look at Him. But, brother, sister, friend! You who may read these lines and still have time and mercy, I beg of you to flee from the wrath to come. Get salvation and get it now; get the kind that will burn out sin and love holiness, and get that which will give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ. For this is the kind that God gives and will stand the test when Jesus comes. Brother, when this old earth begins to fall and crumble, when great mountains of fire will come rolling this way, when the sun will become black as sackcloth of hair, when the moon no more will give her light; when the stars will have ceased to shine, when the Heavens begin to rain fire and brimstone, and the bowels of this earth begin to vomit out great and awful destruction, when ocean liners and railroad trains and government bonds and palaces royal are on fire, you wouldn't give thirty cents for them all, you couldn't sell them if you had them, for 2nd Peter



3:10-11 tells us, "The earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." And brother, you will have to have a holy heart in order to carry on a holy conversation. Better come to Jesus, let Him fix you up and give you a clean heart and then when He comes, you can meet Him and see Him as He is and thank God there won't be any condemnation hanging over you.

Again we take another step in the text and notice it not only tells us He is coming again, describing the manner of His coming and telling who shall see Him, but it says that all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Well, what are they wailing for? Didn't they know He was coming? Oh yes, they had heard that all their lives. Didn't they know that God would bring to pass every prophecy of His word? Oh yes, they could not find one Scripture that hadn't been fulfilled just as God said it would be. Didn't they know that Noah preached to the people of his day one hundred and twenty years and they repented not and were all destroyed? Oh yes, they knew that. Well, didn't they hear how that as the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of man be, and as it rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gemorrah, so shall it also be at the coming of Jesus the second time? Oh

yes, they all heard that, but the sad part of it all, they treated it as a joke. They laughed and made fun and deliberately chose rather to live in sin, have their own way than to repent and get right with God. Now I want you to notice that before this awful destruction overtakes all kindreds of the earth, and before this awful wailing and gnashing of teeth takes place, something else is going to happen. Turn to Matt. 2:40-41, "Then shall two be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill, the one shall be taken, the other left." God is going to take from this earth His people and that will include all the children who have not reached the age of accountability. They will be caught up in a mysterious way. Paul says, "In the twinkling of an eye." It will be done unbeknown at the time to the unsaved, and the crowd that is wailing is the crowd that is left behind. We have heard Evangelist Milton Williams explain Matt. 24:40-41 something like this: "Two men shall be working in the field, we will say father and son. The father is a saved man and the son is not. They are both in the field, the son on account of being younger in years and more active, is a little in advance of his father. Finally he turns around to see his father but his father is gone. He doesn't think anything of it at the time, supposing his father had slipped aside or perhaps gone over to the house. But the father

doesn't come back. He begins to feel alarmed and hurries over home, but father and mother are both gone. The unsaved school teacher having charge of the primary class will come to school as usual. The time to call the children into line has come, the clock strikes nine, but no children. The unsaved mother will steal into the bed room to see if precious little Johnny or sweet little Mary has awakened, but precious little Johnny and sweet little Mary are gone. That ungodly husband will come home; the wife whom he has flattered and yet deceived, he so false and yet she so true, will have gone. He will never see her any more and this will be done in such a mysterious way by God Almighty, that the kindred of the earth won't know it until it is done. 'And then will come to pass such a wailing and bitter remorse. Men's hearts will fail them because of fear, and for looking for those things that shall come to pass upon the earth.' Luke 21:26. And worst of all the Holy Ghost will have taken His flight, the door will be shut and the day of grace and redemption will be over."

Dear reader, today as you hear His voice, harden not your heart. Don't let the devil cheat you out of eternal life. Come to Jesus and get salvation before the day of grace is over.

Again we take the last step in the text and notice He is not only coming again, describing the manner of His coming, and who shall see Him

and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him, but it says, "Even so, Amen." Brother, when God says, "Even so, Amen," that settles it. You might just as well give up; these words so awful and yet so true. But how glad I am that I settled this matter some years ago, and what a comfort to the soul and rest to the mind to know that I am ready to meet Him in peace. Paul in writing to the Hebrews 10:37, said, "But yet a little while and He that shall come will come and will not tarry." When prosperity smiles upon us and friends greet us by the score, when the sun shines brightly and sickness and trouble seem to haunt us no more; when all this world with its pleasures so sweet, remember dear brother, the Lord you must meet.

"Behold I come as a thief; blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15.















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